



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

August 19, 2019

Sent via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: ACF FOIA 19-F-0247 (American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice et. al., Case No. 19-cv-774)

Dear Austin Evers:

This is an interim response pertaining to Case No. 19-cv-774 filed March 20, 2019, relating to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 19-F-0247 submitted to the Administration for Children and Families.

FOIA 19-F-0247 is seeking the following records from November 9, 2016, to the date of search:

- (1) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or about Stephen Miller, including but not limited to communications containing the name "Stephen Miller" or email communications sent or forwarded to, received from, copying, or blind copying stephen.miller@who.eop.gov or s.miller@who.eop.gov.
- (2) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or referencing the phone number "(202) 881-8641."
- (3) All call logs showing incoming or outgoing calls to or from the phone number "(202) 881- 8641."

The Administration of Children and Families reviewed 335 pages pertaining to Item one of the request. The enclosed seven pages are being released in full, without redactions. The remaining 328 pages will be sent to HHS for consultation.

Austin Evers
ACF FOIA 19-F-0247 (American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice et. al., Case No. 19-cv-774)

Mr. Austin Evers
19-F-0247

Page 2

If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Department of Justice who is handling this case for the Department.

Sincerely yours,

**Carla C.
Smith -S**

Digitally signed by Carla C. Smith -S
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=HHS, ou=ACF, ou=People,
cn=Carla C. Smith -S,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=2001380
247
Date: 2019.08.19 19:14:22 -04'00'

Celeste Smith
FOIA Director
Office of Communications
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

From:	Powers, Mary (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=99F1A17205104715B088B389466BEAE6-POWERS, MAR>
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Subject:	FW: Stephen Miller pressuring Trump officials amid immigration shakeups
Date:	2019/04/08 09:22:17
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: POLITICO Pro Education <politicoemail@politicopro.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 6:39 AM
To: Powers, Mary (ACF) <Mary.Powers@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: Stephen Miller pressuring Trump officials amid immigration shakeups

Stephen Miller pressuring Trump officials amid immigration shakeups

By Anita Kumar, Gabby Orr and Daniel Lippman

04/08/2019 06:37 AM EDT

As President Donald Trump roils the capital over illegal immigration, his influential aide Stephen Miller is playing a more aggressive behind-the-scenes role in a wider administration shakeup.

Frustrated by the lack of headway on a signature Trump campaign issue, the senior White House adviser has been arguing for personnel changes to bring in more like-minded hardliners, according to three people familiar with the situation — including the ouster of a key immigration official at the Department of Homeland Security, whose secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen, announced on Sunday that she is resigning.

Miller has also recently been telephoning mid-level officials at several federal departments and agencies to angrily demand that they do more to stem the flow of immigrants into the country, according to two people familiar with the calls.

The pressure comes as Trump, who forced a government shutdown over his demand for a Mexican border wall, is again making immigration the central theme of his presidency; last week, Trump backed off his threats to shut down the border entirely.

The officials at the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice and State, who each handle different parts of the immigration process, were initially surprised that a high-ranking White House official like Miller would call them directly, rather than contact their bosses.

"It's intimidation," one of the people who was briefed on the calls told POLITICO. "Anytime you get a call like this from the White House it's intimidation ... Under normal circumstances, if you were a deputy in one of these agencies, it would be very unusual."

"There's definitely a larger shakeup abreast being led by Stephen Miller and the staunch right wing within the administration," said a person close to Nielsen, who resigned Sunday after months of pressure from a president who felt she was not tough enough on illegal immigration. "They failed with the courts and with Congress and now they're eating their own."

It was not immediately clear whether Miller played a role in the departure of Nielsen, who resigned during a Sunday evening meeting with Trump and whose approach to border enforcement often exasperated Miller and other hardline immigration reform advocates, who saw her as insufficiently bold.

A 33-year-old policy adviser and speechwriter, Miller is the Trump administration's most influential advocate for stricter immigration policies. He uses his close relationship with Trump and tight ties to conservative media to shape the president's thinking. But he has kept a relatively low public profile in recent months, even as Trump has hammered constantly at what he calls a "crisis" on the southern border, where illegal crossings have recently surged.

But critics of Trump's policies and personnel moves believe that Miller may be playing an instrumental role. Several members of Congress, unhappily surprised by Vitiello's withdrawal, and have been asking administration officials and lobbyists for an explanation.

Miller and the White House didn't respond to a request for comment.

Miller also has been pushing for Trump to fire Lee Francis Cissna, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, who has overseen implementation of some of the administration's lesser-known immigration policies, including green card reforms and changes to how the federal government processes and admits refugees.

"He's actively trying to put in place people who have very different points of view than the current leadership within the agencies," said a former DHS official familiar with Miller's efforts. "His idea is basically [to] clean house."

Miller also appears to have played a role in Trump's surprise move on Friday to withdraw his nomination of acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Ronald Vitiello, whom he had moved to install permanently, saying he wanted to take the agency in a "tougher direction."

Miller had informed the president days before he pulled Vitiello's nomination that the acting ICE chief had reservations about closing down the southern border, which Trump has recently threatened to do against the recommendation of some of his top economic advisers and policy aides.

"He thinks we can be tougher — that if we only can do more tough talk this may stop," said another person close to DHS.

The decision to pull Vitiello's nomination came as a surprise to Nielsen, who protested the move, according to two people close to the situation. It also shocked Republicans on Capitol Hill.

"It's kind of a kick in the face to ICE in the middle of a very difficult period," said a congressional aide. "There's understandably a limited bench for people who are willing and able to do the job."

Several Republican members of Congress have called the White House to question Vitiello's withdrawal, according to two people familiar with the phone calls.

"There's a worry now that there's an erosion of people that actually have operational judgment that can at least provide the president with counsel about what will be some of the negative consequences for some of these ideas," said a person close to DHS.

Miller's efforts to oust Cissna from his post, meanwhile, have frustrated even some of the White House aide's usual allies.

"If there's anyone worthy of the White House's ire on the immigration issue, it certainly isn't Francis Cissna," said RJ Hauman, government relations director at the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "A change at the top of USCIS would be a colossal mistake."

But Miller has left some officials feeling as though they, too, could be in jeopardy if they don't pursue a more aggressive approach to border control. His calls to several officials — including Craig Symons, chief counsel at USCIS; Carl Risch, the assistant secretary of State for Consular Affairs; ICE deputy director Matthew Albence; and Kathy Nuebel, policy and strategy chief at USCIS — have sometimes included discussions about poor work performance among colleagues, according to a source briefed on one such conversation.

Last week, as Trump threatened once again to shut down the border — a threat he later walked back, saying he would instead impose auto tariffs on Mexico if immigration and drug trafficking is not curtailed — Miller held a conference call with immigration activists to explain the administration's position and answer questions.

He has told allies that the administration is out of ideas about how to stem the migrant tide at the border, according to a source familiar with the conversations.

The number of family members intercepted at the southwest border soared in March, according to preliminary CBP statistics. While overall arrests remain below the higher levels of the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, the Trump administration argues families and children present unique humanitarian and security issues.

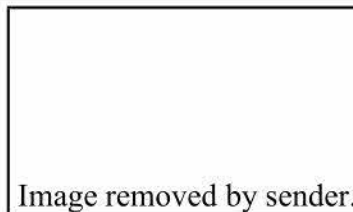
Trump officials have also recently discussed creating an immigration "czar" — a single official who would oversee the issue across dozens of departments and agencies. The position would not require Senate confirmation.

Eliana Johnson and Ted Hesson contributed to this story.

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Delivered Date:	2019/04/08 09:22:17

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To:	"Johnson, Lynn (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e08aee07c094419ab78da8fbb9b8be3e-Johnson, Ly>"
Subject:	Fwd: Nielsen: Acting DHS Deputy Grady has offered to resign
Date:	2019/04/10 08:30:31
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: POLITICO Pro <politicoemail@politico.com>
Date: April 9, 2019 at 8:08:49 PM EDT
To: <mary.powers@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: Nielsen: Acting DHS Deputy Grady has offered to resign
Reply-To: POLITICO subscriptions <reply-fe921c707565027a72-1161149_HTML-874676162-1376319-0@politicoemail.com>

By Ted Hesson

04/09/2019 08:07 PM EDT

Claire Grady, acting Homeland Security Department deputy secretary, has offered to resign, according to outgoing Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

"Acting Deputy Secretary Claire Grady has offered the President her resignation, effective tomorrow," Nielsen [tweeted](#) Tuesday evening. "For the last two years, Claire has served @DHSgov w excellence and distinction. She has been an invaluable asset to DHS — a steady force and a knowledgeable voice."

The resignation comes amid a broader Homeland Security staff [shakeup](#) pushed by White House senior adviser Stephen Miller. President Donald Trump on Sunday [announced](#) that Nielsen would step down from her post. Days before, the White House pulled its nominee to lead Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with Trump [pledging](#) to go in a "tougher direction."

When Trump announced Nielsen's departure, he also tapped Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan to become acting DHS secretary, a move that has [raised](#) legal questions. Grady, the undersecretary for management and acting deputy, was next in the department's line of succession, as outlined in federal law.

Miller has pressed to remove other immigration officials in recent days, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Francis Cissna and General Counsel John Mitnick, although hard-line immigration groups have rallied around Cissna.

Grady is a career civil servant with nearly three decades of experience at DHS and the Defense Department.

In [written testimony](#) for a June 2017 confirmation hearing, she stressed her management experience and said she would strive to deliver "maximum value for every dollar entrusted to the department."

DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Sent Date:	2019/04/10 08:30:30
Delivered Date:	2019/04/10 08:30:31



Case No.: 2019-00001-LIT-OS

August 28, 2019

Mr. Austin R Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
Via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Austin Evers:

This is an interim response to Case No. 19-cv-774 filed March 20, 2019, relating to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2019-00001-LIT-OS submitted on August 29, 2018.

You requested:

- (1) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or about Stephen Miller, including but not limited to communications containing the name "Stephen Miller" or email communications sent or forwarded to, received from, copying, or blind copying stephen.miller@who.eop.gov or s.miller@who.eop.gov.
- (2) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or referencing the phone number "(202) 881-8641."
- (3) All call logs showing incoming or outgoing calls to or from the phone number "(202) 881-8641."

(Date Range for Record Search: From November 9, 2016 to Date of Search)

The Office of the Secretary processed 60 responsive pages captured in the agency's search in response to Item One of the request, and determined that all 60 pages were responsive. After a careful review, I have determined to release 55 pages to you in their entirety, and I am further releasing 5 pages in part, with portions redacted, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §§ 552). Finally, I have identified records that should be sent for consultation to other government agencies to review their equities and returned to this office for final response to you.

FOIA exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. This

exemption protects documents that would be covered by any privilege an agency could assert in a civil proceeding. These privileges include, among others, the deliberative process privilege, the attorney-client privilege, and the attorney work-product privilege.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a Federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in “personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” The definition of “similar files” has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term “similar files” to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure, and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public’s interest in disclosure.

In addition, the Office of the Secretary cannot confirm or deny the existence of records responsive to the portion of Item One of the request seeking email communications sent or forwarded to, received from, copying, or blind copying certain email addresses identified in the request. The Office of the Secretary also cannot confirm or deny the existence of records responsive to Items Two or Three of the request, seeking records of communications with or referencing a specific phone number identified in the request. FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), precludes us from either confirming or denying that such records exist. This response should not be construed as an admission that responsive records exist.

If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the United States Department of Justice Trial Attorney that is representing the Department in this case.

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Fax: 202-741-5769

There are no charges in this instance because the billable costs are less than our threshold of \$25.

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Marquis
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division

Enclosure(s)

From:	Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=02B39F27F3B4469A960054B23545CC24-HALL, BILL>
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Date:	2017/02/14 08:03:46
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin Forwarded Message:

From: "Bulletin Intelligence" <HHS@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: HHS News Briefing for Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Date: 14 February 2017 07:39
To: "HHS@bulletinintelligence.com" <HHS@bulletinintelligence.com>

HHS NEWS BRIEFING

This document and searchable archives are available at hhs.bulletinintelligence.com.

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 7:30 AM EST

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- + Former CMS Official Says EHRs Are Failing To Provide Expected Benefits.
- + Several Republicans Seek To Take Over Price's Former Seat, Including His Wife.

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HHS IN THE NEWS:

- + Family Of Henrietta Lacks Claims NIH Agreement Was Invalid, Seeks Compensation From Johns Hopkins, Others.
- + Newsday: Trump Can Use Deflazacort Price Increase To Fight Drugmakers, FDA Rules.
- + Former FDA Chief Shares Five "Takeaways" About Agency And Drug Regulation.
- + Opinion: Federal "Right-To-Try" Law Would Harm The Vulnerable.
- + AHRQ Seeking New Methods Of Reducing Hospital Readmissions.

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- + Rep. Brady Says Town Hall Protests Will Not Impact ACA Repeal Efforts.
- + Congressional Republicans' Challenges In Crafting ACA Replacement Reminiscent Of 2014 Effort.
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- + DeParle Warns That Seniors, Federal Spending Will Be Impacted If ACA Is Repealed.
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- + Missouri Hospital And Business Leaders Worried About GOP Efforts To Repeal The ACA.
- + Despite Its Shortcomings, Many Entrepreneurs Have Benefited From ACA.
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- + Conservatives Worry Planned Parenthood Funding May Remain Intact During ACA Repeal.
- + Divide Surfaces Between Conservative Wing Of GOP And Leadership Over ACA Repeal Plan.
- + Employer Groups Urge Trump Administration To Reject Keeping Cadillac Tax On Health Plans.
- + House Freedom Caucus Votes To Oppose ACA Repeal If It Doesn't Go As Far As 2015 Repeal Attempt.
- + Lawmakers Consider Using Minnesota High Risk Pools As Model For ACA Replacement.
- + ACA Reduced Number Of Uninsured Latinos In Florida.
- + North Carolina Ranks High In Healthcare Enrollment Rate, Subsidies, and Insurance Costs.
- + Cantel CEO Says Affordable Care Act Has Helped Company Sustain Growth.
- + Some Scientists Raising Concerns Repealing ACA Could Undermine Medical Research.
- + Commentary Considers ACA.

HEALTHCARE NEWS:

- + Some GOP Legislators Raising Concerns About Defunding Planned Parenthood.
- + Opinion: Trump Can Use Executive Order To Strip Planned Parenthood Funding.
- + Utah Senate Committee Votes To Delay Decision On Bill Banning Abortion-Inducing Prescriptions Via Telemedicine.
- + Virginia Senate Committee Advances Legislation Requiring Insurers To Cover 12 Month Supply of Birth Control.
- + House Oversight Committee Votes To Invalidate DC's Assisted Suicide Law.
- + Nevada Lawmaker Consider Ban On Human Microchipping.
- + Editorial Board: Minnesota Needs Legal Clarity On Surrogacy Laws.

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- + Recent Changes To Texas Program For Disabled Children "Have Caused Alarm."

FOOD & IMPORT SAFETY:

- + Dairy Industry Lobbies To Limit Use Of Terms Like "Milk."

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS:

- + Expert: Trump Administration Should Expand Funding For Global Health Research, Response.

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- + Two Senators Pushing Legislation That Would Authorize CMS Pilot Program Testing Home And Community-Based Care For Some Medicare Beneficiaries.
- + Sen. King Pushing To Allow Medicare To Negotiate Lower Prescription Drug Prices.

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- + Missouri Is Launching Medicaid Program That Aims To Reduce Healthcare Costs For Children With Chronic Asthma.
- + Louisiana Providers Who Offer ABA For Autism Concerned About Recent Reimbursement Cuts From Medicaid And Blue Cross.
- + Idaho House Committee Introduces Legislation That Would Launch Health Care Assistance Program.
- + Georgia Gov. Deal Signs Bill Aimed At Solving \$900 Million Medicaid Funding Gap.
- + Opinion: Arizona "Administrative Assessment" Is An Unconstitutional Tax Because It Didn't Meet The Two-Thirds Vote Threshold Required.
- + Utah Senate Panel Approves Resolution Calling For Medicaid Block Grants.

HEALTH & MEDICAL NEWS:

- + New Guidelines Issued For Noninvasive Treatment Of Chronic Lower Back Pain.
- + Two Members Of Congress Criticize Marathon For "Unconscionable" Price Of Deflazacort; Company Delays Launch.
- + Allergan Acquires Zeltiq Aesthetics For \$2.26 Billion.
- + Op-Ed Says Liberals Could Make Progress In Reducing Incarceration During The Next Four Years.
- + Extract From A Common Plant May Help Treat Antibiotic-Resistant Infections, Study Suggests.
- + Hiltzik: Dr. Oz For-Profit Stem Cell Clinic Investigation Is A "Public Service."
- + Rising Naloxone Prices May Hamper Access To Treatment.
- + EpiPen Alternative On Sale Tuesday For Seven Times Higher Price.
- + Louisville Officials Fear Drug-Related Overdoses Are Accelerating.
- + Opinion: Pay-For-Delay Agreements An "Underhanded" Method To Delay Generic Competition.
- + Number Of Hotels In The US Going Smoke-Free Continues To Rise.
- + Commentary Suggests Secondhand Smoke Isn't As Bad As Anti-Tobacco Activists Claimed.
- + Scientists Find New Bacterial Strain Contaminating Shellfish.
- + Drunk Driving May Contribute To More Than One In Four Car Crashes Among Young, Study Suggests.
- + Utah House Bill To Allow Sunscreen Use At Public Schools.
- + Infectious Disease Specialist: Pharmaceutical Companies, Associations Should Work To Better Educate Medical Professionals On Antibiotic Resistance.
- + Men May Be More Likely To Have A Heart Attack After A Snowfall, Study Suggests.
- + Traditional Mediterranean Diet With Added Olive Oil May Be Associated With Lower Risk Of Heart Disease, Research Suggests.
- + Children In Homes With Fewer Rules, Routines May Have A Higher Likelihood Of Being Kept Up At Night By Noise From Other Family Members, Study Indicates.
- + Hormone-Related Changes Tied To Menopause May Make Aging Women More Prone To Falling.
- + Number Of Retirement-Age Americans Taking At Least Three Psychiatric Medications More Than Doubled Between 2004 And 2013, Researchers Say.
- + Psychiatrist: Far More Research Needed On Effectiveness, Safety Of Psychedelics As Medical Treatment.

- + APA Releases Guidelines To Help Patients, Clinicians Evaluate Specific Apps.

GLOBAL HEALTH:

- + India Surpasses China In Air Pollution-Related Deaths.
- + “Superspreaders” May Have Been Responsible For About Two-Thirds Of Ebola Cases During Epidemic, Study Suggests.
- + Seven Kenyan Physician Union Top Officials Imprisoned For Not Stopping Medical Strike.
- + Cancer Patients Struggling Amid Yemen Conflict.
- + Vaccination Rates In Italy Lowest In Western Europe.
- + About 776,000 Poultry Culled In Germany Since Outbreak Of Bird Flu.
- + Taiwan Confirms New Cases Of H5N6 Bird Flu, Has Culled Nearly 130,000 Birds.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Flynn Resigns; Kellogg Named Acting National Security Adviser.
- + Ways And Means Chairman Rejects Proposal To Request Trump’s Tax Returns.
- + Sununu “Not Aware Of Any Widespread Voter Fraud” In New Hampshire.
- + Politico: Pence Has Installed “Conservative Allies” Throughout Administration.
- + Emanuel Meets With Priebus And Kushner.
- + Gateway Pundit Receives White House Press Credentials.
- + WSJournal Editor In Chief Defends Paper’s Coverage Of Trump Administration.
- + Anti-Trump Protests Said To Recall Tea Party Demonstrations.
- + Yellen To Testify Before Congress This Week.
- + Stocks Continue Gains Monday With S&P At Another Record.
- + White House Remains Closed To Tours.
- + Library Of Congress Removes Misspelled Marketing Materials For Inauguration Poster.
- + Trump Visited Wedding Of Major Donor’s Son At Mar-a-Lago.
- + John Oliver Runs Ads To Reach Trump With “Facts” He Wants President To Know.
- + Sources: White House Scouting Trump’s Potential 2020 Democratic Challengers.
- + DNC Chair Candidates: Clinton Focused Too Much On Attacking Trump.
- + RNC Tweets “False Lincoln Quote.”
- + WTimes: Progressives Cool To Notion Of Chelsea Clinton Running For Office.
- + WSJournal A1 Profiles Powerful Lobbyist Now Under Federal Investigation.
- + Suit Alleges Voting System In North Carolina County Unfair To Black Residents.
- + Judge Denies Request To Stop Construction Of Dakota Access Pipeline.
- + Airlines Push For Privatizing Air Traffic Control.
- + Emergency Crews Racing To Repair California Dam.
- + Chicago Manhunt Underway For Suspect In Two Shootings Of Young Girls.
- + Rampell: Hensarling Changes To CFPB Would Make It Easier For Financial Firms To Cheat.
- + Milbank: Chaffetz Should Investigate Administration.
- + WPost: Plan For Postal Service Is “Bare Minimum Necessary.”
- + Brooks Sees Gerald Ford As Model Response To Trump.
- + Canadian Scientist Urges US Scientists To “Speak Out” Against The Administration.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

Leading the News:

GOP PLANS TO REPEAL ACA REMAIN UNCLEAR. The [New York Times](#) (2/14, Draper, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports President Trump and congressional Republicans have vowed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, yet many GOP lawmakers have “become increasingly worried about how they would go about undoing the legislation.” Some are concerned it may not be possible to replace the ACA with “something far better” as Trump promised. They are uncertain about how to handle the Medicaid expansion, or if they should defund Planned Parenthood as part of the repeal process. Meanwhile, there is no ACA replacement plan as yet. According to one former Democratic lawmaker, “The joke around Washington...is that the Republicans are going to repeal Obamacare – and they’ll replace it with the Affordable Care Act.”

REP. SENSENBRENNER SEEKS TO REASSURE CONSTITUENTS ABOUT ACA REPEAL DURING TOWN HALL. On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (2/13, A1, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports on the experience of Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) at meetings in his district, where constituents asked him what will happen if Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act. Sensenbrenner told one woman, “If I could give you an answer today, I would, but I can’t.” To another questioner, Sensenbrenner said “there are winners and losers” in any legislation. Still, he reassured constituents that the ACA replacement would continue to prohibit insurers from denying coverage due to pre-existing conditions, children would be included in “their parents’ health plan until they are 26, and lifetime limits on coverage would not be allowed.” He added that “we Republicans know that we will own whatever the replacement will be,” so “we got to get it right the first time.”

The Secretary in the News:

PRICE, OTHER TRUMP PICKS PROVIDE CLUES TO PRESIDENT’S LARGER POLICY AGENDA. The [Washington Post](#) (2/14, Covert, 11.43M) reports that the “most concrete glimpse we have of the shape” of President Trump’s “larger policy agenda...are his cabinet picks and other key advisers.” The article mentions that HHS Secretary Tom Price’s “plan to abolish and replace the Affordable Care Act also includes allowing people on Medicare to instead opt for a tax credit and then purchase private insurance for themselves.” It adds that Price has indicated “Medicare reform will be high on the Republican agenda under Trump, dropping within months of his administration’s start.”

PRICE ONE OF 10 BIGGEST PLAYERS WHO WILL INFLUENCE ACA’S FATE. [The Hill](#) (2/14, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that the GOP is “wrestling with the difficult task of how to repeal and replace ObamaCare,” and it “remains divided on many central questions.” The piece discusses “10 of the biggest players to watch,” including HHS Secretary Tom Price. The article says one of Price’s first tasks would be to complete regulations which aim to stabilize ACA marketplaces.

PRICE FACES DIFFICULT TASK OF REPEALING ACA WITHOUT IMPACTING INDIVIDUAL MARKET. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/13, Hallerman, 1.41M) reports now that HHS Secretary Tom Price has been confirmed and sworn in, the real work begins. His main task will be to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and “to do it in a way that would keep insurance affordable for millions of Americans, prevent pandemonium in the insurance market and walk back the government’s role in health care.” The article points out that if Republicans succeed in doing so, the “political dividends could be substantial,” yet “they face the wrath of voters at the ballot box, much as Democrats have since 2010, should they fail.”

HHS EXPECTED TO SOON UNVEIL RULES TO HELP STABILIZE ACA MARKETPLACES. [Politico](#) (2/13, Diamond, 2.46M) reports that Monday was HHS Secretary Tom Price’s “first full day on the job.” The piece says HHS recently issued new rules to help stabilize Affordable Care Act marketplaces, and given that OMB cleared the proposed rules on Friday, they should be unveiled soon. An analysis of the draft regulation concluded that “the Trump administration is looking to alter rules around insurers charging older customers more, how much cost they can shift onto customers, and who’s allowed to sign up outside the standard enrollment window.”

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS URGE PRICE NOT TO ADVANCE REGULATIONS THAT WOULD RAISE HEALTHCARE COSTS. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports Sens. Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) signed a letter for HHS Secretary Tom Price urging him not to push any changes that could lead to increased healthcare costs for senior citizens. The letter comes in response to reports that Republicans are considering an increase on the limit of the ratio of the cost of insurance premiums for older people to those of younger people, which currently stands at 3:1. Proposals would change that to a ratio of 5:1, the article says.

SCORES OF PATIENT GROUPS WANT PRICE TO PRESERVE CERTAIN ACA PROVISIONS. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Hellmann, 1.25M) reports about 200 patient groups want HHS Secretary Tom Price "to preserve key ObamaCare protections, including one that guarantees coverage for those with pre-existing conditions." The groups have formed a coalition called I Am Essential, which wrote to Price, arguing that certain Affordable Care Act "provisions have provided improved access to care to millions living with chronic and serious health conditions." The letter stated that if these patients "lose access and coverage for even one day, their health and well-being can be immediately jeopardized. ... Therefore, providing them with continuous coverage and consistent care and treatment must be your number one priority."

CONTRIBUTOR SAYS PRICE'S STANCE ON CONTINUING SHIFT TO VALUE-BASED PAYMENT SYSTEMS REMAINS UNCLEAR. Contributor Bruce Japsen writes in a [Forbes](#) (2/13, 15.17M) piece that accountable care organizations are receiving "favorable reviews as a way to reduce costs and improve health quality for Medicaid and Medicare patients in two new studies out this week in JAMA Internal Medicine." He points out that these findings are being released as HHS Secretary Tom Price begins his new job, and explains that while "Price has spoken somewhat favorably about value-based care models," it remains "unclear just how committed he will be to the move away from fee-for-service medicine that was escalated under the Barack Obama White House."

[Modern Healthcare](#) (2/13, Whitman, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports that [one study](#) examined "post-acute care spending in the Medicare Shared Savings Program, finding that those ACOs did appear to save Medicare dollars by reducing utilization in the post-acute care space without sacrificing quality." Meanwhile, the [second study](#) "compared Medicaid ACOs in Oregon and Colorado, finding that the two states performed similarly on certain metrics, despite their divergent approaches to the ACO model."

PHYSICIANS' GROUP ASKS PRICE TO MAKE MACRA VOLUNTARY. [Fierce Healthcare](#) (2/13, Finnegan, 147K) reports that although not all physicians support the appointment of Tom Price as HHS Secretary, with his recent confirmation, "some doctor's groups are looking to Price to make changes that will benefit physicians, including easing MACRA requirements." For instance, "the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) sent congratulations to Price on his confirmation, but also suggested he make the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), the new physician reimbursement system for Medicare, voluntary."

PHYSICIANS' GROUP IN CONGRESS, OF WHICH PRICE WAS A MEMBER, GAINS PROMINENCE. [Fierce Healthcare](#) (2/13, Finnegan, 147K) reports a small, though "powerful group of conservative physicians in Congress, called the GOP Doctors Caucus, has become more powerful and is expected to play a role in the replacement of the Affordable Care Act." HHS Secretary Tom Price was one of its members. An analysis conducted by NPR concluded that the group "has gained importance with Republicans' rise to power."

FORMER CMS OFFICIAL SAYS EHRS ARE FAILING TO PROVIDE EXPECTED BENEFITS. [Fierce Healthcare](#) (2/13, Sweeney, 147K) reports that during an interview with HiStalk, former Acting CMS Administrator Andy Slavitt pointed out that while programs such as "TurboTax have

simplified complicated tax regulations...electronic medical records haven't had the same impact in the healthcare industry." Slavitt explained that EHRs are still not "providing clinicians with the information they need, and doctors frequently complain that they are spending more time in front of a computer than with patients." He stated that technology is not "as connected as it should be, it's not giving people the information they need." Slavitt added, "It's not satisfying the clinicians in general. It's not increasing their productivity. It's probably not improving care." The article points out that HHS Secretary Tom Price has made similar comments.

SEVERAL REPUBLICANS SEEK TO TAKE OVER PRICE'S FORMER SEAT, INCLUDING HIS WIFE. The [AP](#) (2/14, Barrow) reports the "scramble" to take over from former Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) "as Georgia congressman provides Republicans and Democrats with a trial run for next year's elections, which will center on the popularity and agenda of Price's new boss, President Donald Trump." The article says several Republicans seek to replace Price, and "current and former elected officials [are] grappling with whether to embrace Trump wholeheartedly or try to establish independence from the White House." This problem "could be particularly daunting for one potential GOP hopeful: Price's wife, Betty, who now serves in the Georgia General Assembly."

Flint Water News:

FLINT MAYOR TO MEET WITH MICHIGAN GOVERNOR OVER END OF WATER BILL CREDITS. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/13, Egan, 1.01M) reports Flint, Michigan Mayor Karen Weaver plans to meet with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder later this week or early next week to discuss the state's decision to end state credits for Flint residents' water bills. Weaver believes the state gave Flint too little notice of the decision. Governor Snyder's spokesperson Anna Heaton said he "has always welcomed meetings with Mayor Weaver and they share an ongoing, open dialogue about Flint's recovery. ... However, state taxpayers will not additional funding for water bill credits or source water, since the water quality in Flint meets the requirements of the Federal Lead and Copper Rule and Safe Drinking Water Act. ... The city does have the option to extend water bill credits through its budget."

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/13, Fonger, 878K) and the [Detroit News](#) (2/13, Oosting, 473K) also provide coverage.

HHS in the News:

FAMILY OF HENRIETTA LACKS CLAIMS NIH AGREEMENT WAS INVALID, SEEKS COMPENSATION FROM JOHNS HOPKINS, OTHERS. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (2/13, McDaniels, 714K) reports Lawrence Lacks, the eldest son of Henrietta Lacks, claims "that an agreement the National Institutes of Health made with" Lacks' family about the use of his mother's cervical cancer cells was not valid, and is seeking "compensation from Johns Hopkins University and possibly others for the unauthorized use of her cells in research that led to decades of medical advances." Lacks says the NIH "cut him out of" a 2013 agreement with other family members on how to use the cells, and believes his mother would "be horrified that Johns Hopkins profited while her family to this day has no rights." The NIH has not responded to the accusation. Johns Hopkins says it did not profit from the cells and has "worked with family members to develop a series of programs to recognize and honor Henrietta Lacks," Lacks contends "that is not enough to correct the wrong done to Henrietta Lacks."

NEWSDAY: TRUMP CAN USE DEFLAZACORT PRICE INCREASE TO FIGHT DRUGMAKERS, FDA RULES. In an editorial, [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/13, 1.3M) suggests that President Trump can use the FDA approval of "deflazacort, a steroid that people have been importing for \$1,200 a year to fight Duchenne muscular dystrophy" to "call out a drugmaker and the system." Because of "'orphan drug' rules for rare diseases," the approval gives Marathon Pharmaceuticals a seven-year patent and the ability to charge \$89,000 a year for the treatment.

Marathon “says it will try to provide the drug free of charge to people with no insurance or those who can’t afford” it, but *Newsday* suggests those programs “often don’t work as well as promised.” The article calls on Trump to use the news to “take on both a profiteering drug company and a senseless set of FDA rules.”

FORMER FDA CHIEF SHARES FIVE “TAKEAWAYS” ABOUT AGENCY AND DRUG REGULATION. [Kaiser Health News](#) (2/14, Lupkin, Tribble, 2K) lists five “takeaways” from Dr. Robert Califf, the former head of the Food and Drug Administration, concerning the agency and drug regulation. Califf said that the FDA’s increasing use of big data and the 21st Century Cures Act are both positive developments, but Califf is also concerned about the agency being understaffed, the future of drug safety standards, and claims that “faster approval” would result in lower prices for drugs.

OPINION: FEDERAL “RIGHT-TO-TRY” LAW WOULD HARM THE VULNERABLE. In an opinion piece for the [The Hill](#) (2/13, 1.25M) “Contributors” blog, Richard L. Plotkin, Esq., co-founder of the Max Cure Foundation, writes that a federal “right-to-try” law “would potentially injure the most vulnerable of patients, including children with life threatening diseases, and expose numerous unsuspecting parties to lawsuits given they would not have the ‘cover’ and protection given them by the FDA.” Plotkin argues that the FDA’s expanded access program already gives access to experimental medications for the terminally ill, and “right-to-try” laws instead “create a pathway...without any oversight by the FDA.”

AHRQ SEEKING NEW METHODS OF REDUCING HOSPITAL READMISSIONS. [Fierce Healthcare](#) (2/13, Finnegan, 147K) reports the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is attempting to determine “how it can re-engineer primary care visits to help solve an expensive healthcare problem: hospital readmissions.” To that end, the AHRQ “published a notice in the Federal Register seeking approval of the 30-month project to determine how to improve primary care visits to prevent avoidable readmissions of patients.”

Health Reform:

EMPLOYERS, UNIONS CRITICIZING GOP OVER TAXES ON HIGH-COST PLANS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Mathews, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that employers and unions had strongly criticized Affordable Care Act taxes on high-cost coverage, and now, Republicans are being accused of proposing ACA replacements which will have a similar impact. The article says the healthcare law’s Cadillac tax was intended to dissuade employers from offering plans which some considered too generous, and which resulted in too much use of expensive care.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/14, Cunningham, 400K) also reports.

REP. BRADY SAYS TOWN HALL PROTESTS WILL NOT IMPACT ACA REPEAL EFFORTS. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports that on Monday, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) said “crowds of people at town halls across the country worried about the fate of ObamaCare will not alter Republican plans to repeal and replace the law.” He made the comments in response to a question about whether such protests will affect Republicans’ efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Brady stated, “I don’t think it will,” although he added, “I think it’s healthy to have these discussions.”

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS’ CHALLENGES IN CRAFTING ACA REPLACEMENT REMINISCENT OF 2014 EFFORT. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/13, Kapur, 201K) reports that congressional Republicans “are hitting roadblocks as they” attempt to devise a viable alternative to the Affordable Care Act, “stuck over issues like how to structure tax breaks they want to give people to buy insurance.” The article says this may be déjà vu, given that the GOP “stalemated on many of the same obstacles in 2014 during its most extensive effort to devise an alternative, according to lawmakers and aides involved with that effort.” Former House Majority Leader Eric

Cantor (R-VA), who led the 2014 effort, said, "There were a lot of thorny issues."

CONSERVATIVE GROUP TARGETING 50 HOUSE LAWMAKERS OVER ACA. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Hagen, 1.25M) reports that American Action Network, a group affiliated with House GOP leaders, "is launching a year-long ad campaign targeting 50 House members to support repealing and replacing ObamaCare." AAN is targeting House members from both parties, and it "will use digital ads that appear when constituents in these districts type in keywords – including the lawmaker's name – into search engines Google and Bing." The ad urges the lawmakers to replace the Affordable Care Act, and it provides a link to a website called "A Better Health Care Plan."

GOP LEADERS USING WISCONSIN HIGH-RISK POOL AS A MODEL, BUT EXPERTS RECOMMEND CAUTION. [Modern Healthcare](#) (2/13, Meyer, Subscription Publication, 241K) reports some GOP leaders in Congress "are promoting state high-risk pools as an alternative to the Affordable Care Act's popular provision requiring health plans to accept consumers regardless of pre-existing medical conditions." They are using "Wisconsin's pre-ACA pool, the Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan, as a model," yet a Wisconsin insurance official recently warned "a House panel that high-risk pools need a stable funding source and are not a solution for every state." In addition, some experts caution that "state high-risk pools generally were a policy failure across the country, and making them work properly would require a large amount of taxpayer funding."

DEPARLE WARNS THAT SENIORS, FEDERAL SPENDING WILL BE IMPACTED IF ACA IS REPEALED. On its website, [CNN](#) (2/13, Skoczek, 29.79M) reports that according to Nancy-Ann DeParle, one of the architects of the Affordable Care Act, if the healthcare law is repealed without a viable replacement, this "would weaken the finances of Medicare and mean higher prescription costs for seniors." DeParle is quoted as saying, "Seniors will lose their coverage for prescription drugs in their 'donut hole,' so they'll have a lot of drugs that they have to pay for that they don't have to pay for now...and Medicare's solvency would be much worse." She explained that the possible "impact on seniors is one of the reasons the White House and Republican leaders in Congress are finding it challenging to fulfill their pledge to 'repeal and replace'" the ACA.

[The Hill](#) (2/13, Shelbourne, 1.25M) reports that DeParle also voiced concerns about eliminating the ACA's individual mandate, warning that doing so would raise Federal spending because the government would have to increase subsidies. In addition, she maintained that contrary to GOP claims, "the Obama administration received ample input from Republican lawmakers while crafting the legislation, meaning the healthcare law includes conservative concepts." She pointed out that Republicans had good ideas about reducing fraud, waste, abuse, and making prices more transparent. The Administration agreed and incorporated these ideas.

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKER USES STUDY DATA TO ARGUE AGAINST ACA REPEAL. [Congressional Quarterly](#) (2/13, Rosen, Subscription Publication, 967) reports that during a debate about the future of the Affordable Care Act last month, Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY) "confronted Republicans by citing the potential losses in jobs, gross state product, business output, as well as state and local tax revenues if the law were to be repealed." He was using figures from a study conducted by the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. The article says the numbers "sounded devastating on the House floor, but the authors acknowledged that they didn't take into account any replacement for the law that Republicans might enact."

MISSOURI HOSPITAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS WORRIED ABOUT GOP EFFORTS TO REPEAL THE ACA. The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (2/13, Shesgreen, 48K) reports hospital and business executives in Missouri are becoming more worried "about the GOP's plan to 'repeal and replace' Obamacare, and some want congressional Republicans to fix the health care law, instead of scrapping it." They are arguing that the ACA should be "repaired," not repealed, particularly given that Republicans have yet to devise a viable alternative to it. They acknowledge that the ACA has several issues, but also point out that it "has reduced the number of uninsured Missourians, eased the pressure on emergency rooms, and decreased the amount of 'charity

care' hospitals have to provide."

DESPITE ITS SHORTCOMINGS, MANY ENTREPRENEURS HAVE BENEFITED FROM ACA.

[Fast Company](#) (2/13, Farr, 2.44M) reports that while there has been much criticism of the Affordable Care Act, "many forget that it offers benefits to consultants, freelancers, small-business owners, and entrepreneurs." Some point out that its enactment "instilled confidence in many entrepreneurs...to start companies." Often, these entrepreneurs had chronic health conditions which would have prevented them from obtaining coverage before the ACA's pre-existing condition provision took effect.

California Entrepreneurs Could Be At Risk Of Losing Coverage If ACA Is Repealed.

[California Healthline](#) (2/13, Bartolone, 1K) reports that "hundreds of thousands of self-employed people in California are at risk of losing their ability to buy affordable insurance" if certain GOP proposals to replace the Affordable Care Act are implemented. While some business owners want the ACA to be repealed, "the smallest of California businesses – entrepreneurs and contract workers who buy insurance on their own through Covered California – have the most to lose under a repeal." The article says many of them could not purchase coverage before the ACA due to pre-existing conditions, and some were even forced to travel to Mexico for care.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICIAL WARNS ACA REPEAL COULD THREATEN PLANS FOR NEW REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (2/13, Hansen, Subscription Publication, 132K) reports that according to Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker (D), repealing the Affordable Care Act "could threaten plans for a new regional hospital in the county." Rushern's comments were first published in a Washington Post article which highlighted the impact of a possible ACA repeal on the region.

CONSERVATIVES WORRY PLANNED PARENTHOOD FUNDING MAY REMAIN INTACT DURING ACA REPEAL.

[CNN](#) (2/13, Lee, 29.79M) reports Conservatives in Congress are worried Planned Parenthood's federal funding may survive the ACA repeal. CNN reports, "House Speaker Paul Ryan announced last month that Republicans will strip federal funding for Planned Parenthood as a part of the legislative process to roll back Obamacare." Conservative fears stem from the possibility that stripping funding may not survive the Senate due to pro-choice Republicans Susan Collins' (ME) and Lisa Murkowski's (AK) lack of commitment to the proposal.

DIVIDE SURFACES BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE WING OF GOP AND LEADERSHIP OVER ACA REPEAL PLAN.

[Politico](#) (2/13, Bade, 2.46M) reports, "House conservatives...are plotting a major push to repeal the [Affordable Care Act] immediately without simultaneously approving an alternative." The move runs counter to what GOP leadership hopes for: "to load up a spring repeal bill...with as many replacement provisions as possible." Politico adds, "Two GOP leadership sources said the push from conservatives would not likely change the current strategy to package repeal and replacement provisions together."

EMPLOYER GROUPS URGE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT KEEPING CADILLAC TAX ON HEALTH PLANS.

[McClatchy](#) (2/13, Pugh, 74K) reports, "Twenty-seven employer groups asked the Trump Administration on Monday to reject calls to replace the Affordable Care Act's 'Cadillac Tax' on high-cost health benefits with a plan that caps the individual tax exclusion for job-based health coverage." The groups want to see the Cadillac Tax eliminated, with no changes to the individual tax exclusion.

HOUSE FREEDOM CAUCUS VOTES TO OPPOSE ACA REPEAL IF IT DOESN'T GO AS FAR AS 2015 REPEAL ATTEMPT.

[The Hill](#) (2/13, Sullivan, 1.25M) reports "The conservative House Freedom Caucus voted Monday night to oppose an ObamaCare repeal bill if it does not go as far as the repeal measure that passed in 2015." The move, according to the Hill, could "complicate Republican repeal efforts." The [Huffington Post](#) reports "The 2015 repeal bill removed the Medicaid expansion that is popular in many red states...and repealed the individual and employer mandates. The bill also removed a number of taxes and the government's authority to run health

care exchanges. In short, it would disassemble Obamacare." [CNN](#) (2/13, Lee, Walsh, 29.79M) also reports.

LAWMAKERS CONSIDER USING MINNESOTA HIGH RISK POOLS AS MODEL FOR ACA REPLACEMENT. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/13, Howatt, Snowbeck, 1.27M) reports Republicans may find an alternative to the ACA in state-sponsored "high risk pools," similar to what Minnesota instituted in 1976. Critics argue the shift would burden people who "had the misfortune of being sick in the past." The Star Tribune reports, "the idea of bringing back high-risk pools is still in the concept stage, with few details ironed out, such as the crucial issue of how they would be funded."

ACA REDUCED NUMBER OF UNINSURED LATINOS IN FLORIDA. The [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (2/13, Robbins, 175K) reports prior to the ACA, "Latinos accounted for about 32 percent of the 41 million people that were uninsured." But since the passage of the law, "4.2 million of them have signed up for insurance." Volusia County saw a drop in the number of uninsured Latinos from 30 percent in 2013 to 16 percent 2016. Despite the successes, Latinos still make up the largest group of uninsured individuals.

NORTH CAROLINA RANKS HIGH IN HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT RATE, SUBSIDIES, AND INSURANCE COSTS. The [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (2/13, Craver, 204K) reports North Carolina "is the largest state to have just one exchange insurer." According to the Winston-Salem Journal, "The state had the fourth highest enrollment rate for 2017 at 549,158." The article continues, "The state had the nation's highest premium average, with Blue Cross raising its monthly premium by 24 percent for 2017." However, despite the premium increases, "82 percent...were estimated to pay less than \$75 a month, and at least 90 percent were expected to qualify for subsidies."

CANTEL CEO SAYS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HAS HELPED COMPANY SUSTAIN GROWTH. The [Newark \(NJ\) Star-Ledger](#) (2/13, Lynn, 438K) reports Cantel CEO Jorgen Hansen said in a telephone interview Monday, "We think the Affordable Care Act is a good thing; More people are covered, which is good for patients and for the industry, as well." The Star-Ledger reports, "Cantel has been growing fast. ... Last fall, Cantel began a five-year plan to double its sales and profits." Hansen pointed out the growth of the company has come as a result of the ACA requiring coverage of colorectal exams, which require the type of endoscopy equipment that accounts for about half of Cantel's revenue.

SOME SCIENTISTS RAISING CONCERNS REPEALING ACA COULD UNDERMINE MEDICAL RESEARCH. The [Politico](#) (2/13, Allen, 2.46M) "Morning eHealth" blog reports that some scientists have raised concerns that repealing the Affordable Care Act may "undermine research agenda such as Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative." Should the situation revert "to the days when insurers could refuse coverage, or set rates based on pre-existing conditions, they would have an incentive and opportunity to dig into vast new data sources." That, "say some scientists, could undermine research agendas such as Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative."

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS ACA. Several outlets offer opinions on health reform.

Glenn Kessler writes in the [Washington Post](#) (2/14, 11.43M) "Fact Checker" blog on February 11, local GOP official Bill Akins said during a Florida town hall, "Here's the problem I have with the Affordable Health Care Act. Number one, there is a provision in there that anyone over the age of 74 has to go before what is effectively a death panel." He was booed by the audience, many of whom disputed his claim. The piece explains that former Alaska governor Sarah Palin made "death panels" famous in 2009, after which language about them was removed from the Affordable Care Act, and two years later, "the Obama administration even deleted all references to end-of-life planning in a new Medicare regulation." When asked why he seemed to believe the ACA still contained references to death panels, Akins said "he had conflated two pieces of information, and so had bungled his comment."

[USA Today](#) (2/13, 5.28M) editorializes that Republicans should “retain and repair” Obamacare. The editorial argues that the Affordable Care Act is flawed, but that Republicans should focus on fixing its problems while retaining the parts of it that have been effective.

Tim Philips, the president of Americans for Prosperity, writes in an opinion piece in [USA Today](#) (2/13, 5.28M) that the Affordable Care Act should be repealed, because the insurance provided under the law “is too expensive for most to afford.” Philips argues that the law “has failed across the board” and that “no amount of tinkering around the edges will save it.”

Contributor Robert W. Wood writes in a [Forbes](#) (2/13, 15.17M) piece that as congressional Republicans and President Trump proceed with efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, “it is worth remembering that the law is arguably more a tax law than a health care law.” Wood says the GOP will almost certainly repeal the ACA’s Cadillac tax, but the bigger question is how many of the law’s other taxes will also be eliminated.

Alvin Chang writes in [Vox](#) (2/13, 1.15M) piece that while the Affordable Care Act “was billed as a policy that would make individual people healthier – and it ended up insuring 20 million people,” the healthcare law “also made neighborhoods healthier,” which “meant communities no longer had to fight over local tax dollars to care for the uninsured.” As a result, people in some of the poorest neighborhoods gained access to healthcare coverage. The piece points out that when Republicans discuss repealing the ACA and they focus on individual coverage, the fact is that this is “not just a uniquely ‘personal’ issue,” as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) said recently.

Juan Williams, a political analyst for the Fox News Channel, writes in an opinion piece in [The Hill](#) (2/13, Williams, 1.25M) that “conservative media titans,” including Matt Drudge and Sean Hannity, are now criticizing President Trump and Congressional Republicans for not repealing the Affordable Care Act. Hannity recently called Congressional Republicans “spineless, gutless, timid politicians” for their failure to repeal the law. Williams argues that such criticism “is a sign of the deep divisions already splitting the ruling Republican majority in Washington.”

[Forbes](#) (2/13, 15.17M) contributor John C. Goodman writes that the “Republican Party could actually lose control of the House of Representatives in the next election,” because of healthcare. Goodman argues that “the current Republican leadership – at least in the House – has lost its way” on healthcare, and that they may lose many seats in the next election because of it. Goodman mentions that the American Medical Association and other groups supported the Affordable Care Act.

Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH), the chairman of the Small Business Committee, writes in an opinion piece in [Fox News](#) (2/13, 11.07M) that the Affordable Care Act should be repealed and replaced in order to help small businesses. Chabot argues that the law has been burdensome for many small business owners and that repealing the law will help them.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/13, 400K) contributor Charlie Katebi writes that Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price “must rollback” the Affordable Care Act while also ensuring that “people with pre-existing conditions can access essential medical services after Obamacare.” Katebi argues that “Price and his fellow Republicans must reject Obamacare’s false choice that our healthcare system can only help the sick at the expense of the healthy.”

In an opinion piece, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Rubin, 11.43M) “Right Turn” blog contributor Jennifer Rubin writes that there are “major issues” facing Congressional Republicans’ efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, such as whether to “keep or roll back Medicaid” and “how generous to make the tax credit” that is a part of many replacement proposals. Rubin argues that the law’s taxes are one of the details that Republicans are struggling with, because many Republicans want to repeal the taxes, but they also need a way to finance their replacement healthcare plan.

Melissa Thomasson, Ph.D., a professor of economics at Miami University, writes in an opinion piece in [STAT](#) (2/13, Thomasson) "First Opinion" that repealing the Affordable Care Act "will likely return us to a pre-ACA era when older people, the unemployed, and people with preexisting conditions won't be able to afford health insurance." Thomasson outlines the history of health insurance in the US and argues that repealing the law "will just make health insurance more expensive."

Jon Auerbach, the President of Trust for America's Health, writes in an opinion piece in [The Hill](#) (2/13, Auerbach, Contributor, 1.25M) "Congress Blog" that the current debate over the Affordable Care Act is not addressing the issue of "funding for public health." Auerbach says that the Affordable Care Act provided funding for public health efforts by increasing funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and argues that any replacement for the law should follow that example and also increase funding for public health efforts.

[Forbes](#) (2/13, 15.17M) contributor Carolyn McClanahan writes that Republicans should focus on fixing people's most common complaints with the US healthcare system in drafting a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. McClanahan argues that politicians failed to listen to what people wanted when creating the law, and that they should not make the same mistake again when trying to replace the law.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (2/13, 366K) editorializes that Congressional Republicans may decide not to repeal the Affordable Care Act after hearing from more of the law's supporters about how it has helped them. The editorial suggests that the recent experiences of some Representatives meeting with their constituents may persuade some Republicans to not repeal the law outright.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Times, 272K) editorializes the weight of repealing the ACA rests on Secretary Price's shoulders. The Times argues, "Dr. Price must persuade Americans that by re-establishing the doctor-patient relationship, health insurance is a benefit rather than a burden." Due to the "momentum" Republicans have, the Times concludes, "Mr. Trump must move that rock soon, or suffer Sisyphean consequences."

In his opinion piece for the [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Morici, 272K) Economics Professor of the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland argues the ACA "was advertised to provide affordable health insurance to virtually all Americans," and to lower healthcare costs, "and on both counts it failed terribly." Morici points out that "many healthy people chose to pay fines rather than hefty premiums, and many folks added to the insurance rolls were sicker and needed more care than anticipated. Insurance companies lost considerable sums last year, many withdrew from the exchanges and for 2017 premiums jumped 25 percent." Morici concludes, "Republicans must face the need to regulate prices or risk an angry electorate that can't afford health care and lose badly in the midterm elections."

In an opinion piece in the [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Friess, 272K) businessman Foster Friess argues "Democrats should join their fellow senators, even though they are Republicans, to allow Americans to choose our own insurance policies, select where and who provides our care, decide which coverage we want and don't want, recover the lower premiums we paid earlier, while still benefiting from the safety net assured by guaranteed access to emergency rooms." Friess believes the US is headed back to "our Christian heritage" after the election of President Trump. Friess continues, "Judeo-Christian values allow God to decide when we die rather than the panel of experts in Washington that the Affordable Care Act established."

In his guest opinion for the [New York Post](#) (2/13, 3.82M) Editor of the National Review Rich Lowry argues "progressive activists are tearing out a page from" the Tea Party's playbook. Lowry believes Democrats are in a similar position that Republicans were in, in 2009. He argues, "disturbing the status quo in American health care carries significant political risk," and if

Republicans “avoid town halls and hope that after repeal passes everything calms down” the impact will be similar to what happened to Democrats in 2009.

Healthcare News:

SOME GOP LEGISLATORS RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD. [Congressional Quarterly](#) (2/13, Shutt, Subscription Publication, 967) reports GOP efforts to defund Planned Parenthood are embedded in a legislative package that would also repeal large portions of the Affordable Care Act “and is set for fast-track consideration by Congress.” Nevertheless, some Republican legislators have raised concerns for the effect defunding Planned Parenthood could have. Stripping the organization of federal dollars “would have different impacts on the” budget, “depending on how long GOP extends the ban.” According to the CBO, “a one-year ban would reduce direct spending by \$235 million between 2016 and 2025. But a permanent ban would increase direct spending by \$130 million during the same period.” The report “cautions that ‘the government would incur some costs for Medicaid beneficiaries currently served by Planned Parenthood who would not receive services that help women avert pregnancies if a bill that permanently prohibits federal funding from being made available to Planned Parenthood were enacted.”

OPINION: TRUMP CAN USE EXECUTIVE ORDER TO STRIP PLANNED PARENTHOOD FUNDING. In an opinion piece for [Bloomberg View](#) (2/13, 125K) senior editor of National Review Ramesh Ponnuru argues President Trump can strip funding from Planned Parenthood via executive order. Based on the Supreme Court ruling in *Rust v. Sullivan* (1991), Ponnuru argues the legal precedent exists to remove funding.

UTAH SENATE COMMITTEE VOTES TO DELAY DECISION ON BILL BANNING ABORTION-INDUCING PRESCRIPTIONS VIA TELEMEDICINE. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/13, McKellar, 362K) reports Utah's Senate Health and Human Services Committee “voted unanimously to delay a decision on [HB154](#) until its Tuesday meeting, allowing for more discussion.” The measure would ban physicians from “using telemedicine to remotely prescribe abortion-inducing medication.” The bill's sponsor, Rep. Ken Ivory (R-West Jordan), “said abortion-inducing medication shouldn't be prescribed remotely, arguing it could jeopardize the health of women who don't receive face-to-face interaction from a doctor and could experience medical complications as a result.” Sen. Jim Dabakis (D-Salt Lake City) “questioned why Ivory hadn't consulted with medical groups such as the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which has published an opinion that abortion-inducing medication prescriptions written through telemedicine can be safe and effective, and it opposes laws that restrict that access.”

VIRGINIA SENATE COMMITTEE ADVANCES LEGISLATION REQUIRING INSURERS TO COVER 12 MONTH SUPPLY OF BIRTH CONTROL. The [AP](#) (2/13) reports a Virginia Senate Committee advanced a bill Monday in the General Assembly that “would require health insurance companies to cover a 12-month supply of prescription birth control.” The measure passed the House of Delegates with only one no vote.

HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOTES TO INVALIDATE DC'S ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW. The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Jamison, Davis, 11.43M) reports in “DC Politics” that on Monday night, “in a rare step, a House committee voted 22 to 14...to block a law that would make assisted suicide legal in the District” of Columbia, thereby “opening a new front in the conflict between congressional Republicans and the overwhelmingly Democratic capital city.”

The [AP](#) (2/13) reports the House Oversight Committee voted Monday “voted to invalidate the District of Columbia's new assisted-suicide law.” The law, which was signed last year by Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser [D], would permit patients with a terminal illness to end their lives with a physician's help. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Johnson) and the [Congressional Quarterly](#) (2/13, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 967) “TrumpTracker” blog also cover the story.

NEVADA LAWMAKER CONSIDER BAN ON HUMAN MICROCHIPPING. The [AP](#) (2/13, Noon) reports Nevada lawmakers on a judicial panel are considering “whether Nevada should join at least four other states in banning mandatory identification markers in people as a precaution to keep the emerging technology from creeping into workplaces, prisons or hospitals.” ACLU of Nevada Policy Director Holly Welborn believes the chips would violate an individual's right to autonomy and privacy.

EDITORIAL BOARD: MINNESOTA NEEDS LEGAL CLARITY ON SURROGACY LAWS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/13, 1.27M) editorializes legislators should approve the Minnesota Gestational Carrier Act as a means to create the state's first legal framework for “guiding prospective parents and carriers through the delicate thicket that comes with having a third party birth a couple's baby.” Surrogacy, as a viable reproductive option, enjoys support from various medical groups such as the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The Star Tribune concludes, “It would be a shame to allow a maddening patchwork of competing county practices and judicial interpretations to continue because the Legislature cannot find common ground on an issue that badly needs legal clarity.”

Human Services News:

RECENT CHANGES TO TEXAS PROGRAM FOR DISABLED CHILDREN “HAVE CAUSED ALARM.” The [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/13, McSwane, 1.12M) reports recent changes to Texas' Medically Dependent Children Program “have caused alarming and widespread problems,” according to a journalistic investigation. The article explains that the care of children with extreme maladies was “handed off” to nonprofit hospitals and private companies last November.

Food & Import Safety:

DAIRY INDUSTRY LOBBIES TO LIMIT USE OF TERMS LIKE “MILK.” In continuing coverage, the [New York Times](#) (2/13, O'Connor, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the dairy industry is lobbying Congress to “stop companies from calling their plant-based products yogurt, milk or cheese.” As a result, 32 members of Congress have requested that the Food and Drug Administration “crack down on companies that call plant-based beverages ‘milk.’” However, critics “say consumers know exactly what they are buying when they choose almond or soy milk instead of dairy milk.”

Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness:

EXPERT: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SHOULD EXPAND FUNDING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH, RESPONSE. Craig Spencer, MD, MPH, Director of Global Health in Emergency Medicine at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, writes in an opinion blog in [The Hill](#) (2/13, 1.25M) that the “White House is writing a prescription for an American public health catastrophe by questioning the value of prevention and preparedness for emerging global health threats.” He argues that “isolating ourselves while decreasing American contributions to global health will only make us more vulnerable and less capable of responding when it strikes.” He calls on the Trump Administration to “significantly expand funding for global health research and response.” Dr. Spencer says, “This will allow the United States to re-assert itself as a global health leader and improve the lives of billions of people around the world while protecting American citizens at the same time.” Dr. Spencer sites the success of the PEPFAR program as an example.

Nutrition & Obesity:

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR INTRODUCES BILL THAT WOULD REQUIRE WARNING LABELS ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Prentice) reports California

state Senator Bill Monning (D) “introduced a bill that would place warning labels on soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages sold in” the state. The article points out that Monning has introduced similar legislation twice before.

Medicare:

TWO SENATORS PUSHING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE CMS PILOT PROGRAM TESTING HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE FOR SOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Ayala, 1.25M) reports Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) are pushing for legislation that would authorize the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to launch a pilot program to test whether “offering home and community-based care to certain Medicare beneficiaries” could result in savings. The pilot program “could open the door for reimbursement under Medicare, where payment for nonmedical support services is largely off limits.”

SEN. KING PUSHING TO ALLOW MEDICARE TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/13, Collins, 165K) reports Sen. Angus King (I-ME) is “pressing to secure congressional approval to let Medicare negotiate lower prescription drug prices.” King argues allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies would save \$24 billion annually. King has made an ally in President Trump on the issue who reaffirmed his support for the move last week. A 2015 Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that more than 80 percent of American support the proposal. The Daily News Reports the legislation currently has 12 Democratic Senators “who have signed on to it.”

Medicaid &CHIP:

MISSOURI IS LAUNCHING MEDICAID PROGRAM THAT AIMS TO REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC ASTHMA. On its website, [KMOX-TV St. Louis](#) (2/13, 21K) reports Missouri is launching a Medicaid program this year that aims to reduce healthcare costs for children with chronic asthma through home visits and follow-ups. The law authorizing the program “was approved in 2014, but recently received half a million dollars in state funding and an expected two million in federal dollars.”

LOUISIANA PROVIDERS WHO OFFER ABA FOR AUTISM CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT REIMBURSEMENT CUTS FROM MEDICAID AND BLUE CROSS. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (2/13, Pagones, 75K) reports Louisiana healthcare providers who offer Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to treat autism are concerned that “recent changes in insurance reimbursements” may affect their ability to offer the service. The article explains that recently the state’s Medicaid program and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana both cut their reimbursement rates for ABA. The article mentions that Blue Cross said one of the reasons it cut its reimbursement rate is because providers used “generalized billing codes” that were outdated, but the article reports that the American Medical Association now has better billing codes for ABA.

IDAHO HOUSE COMMITTEE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION THAT WOULD LAUNCH HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (2/13, Russell, 170K) reports the Idaho House Health &Welfare Committee introduced legislation that would “launch a new state Health Care Assistance Program” to help adults who fall into a coverage gap. The program “would tap the state’s Millennium Fund for \$10 million next year to provide primary care and limited prescription coverage” for uninsured adults in the state who earn less than the federal poverty level and are not eligible for insurance subsidies or the state’s Medicaid program.

GEORGIA GOV. DEAL SIGNS BILL AIMED AT SOLVING \$900 MILLION MEDICAID FUNDING GAP. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/13, Bluestein, 1.41M) reports Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal “signed a measure into law that will avert a roughly \$900 million gap in Medicaid

funding." Senate Bill 70 allows the Department of Community Health board to assess hospital provider fee. The article reports the fee is expected to raise about \$311 million and allows the state to "tap an additional \$600 million in federal funding."

OPINION: ARIZONA "ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT" IS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL TAX BECAUSE IT DIDN'T MEET THE TWO-THIRDS VOTE THRESHOLD REQUIRED. In a guest article for the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/13, Lopez-Bauman and Sandefur, 1.1M) Director of healthcare policy at the Goldwater Institute Naomi Lopez-Bauman and Executive Vice President Christiana Sandefur believe the expansion of Medicaid in Arizona has caused "the consequences" to add up. After 650,000 Arizonans enrolled in the Medicaid expansion, the cost of the expansion has created a funding issue now that the federal government's share of the bill is decreasing. The Goldwater Institute has sued the state over the ability for the state Medicaid director to "impose... an 'administrative assessment'" which is just a tax in disguise. Arizona requires all tax increases to be approved by two-thirds of both houses of the legislature, as prescribed in Prop. 108. The state Court of Appeals will hear the case on Feb. 14.

UTAH SENATE PANEL APPROVES RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MEDICAID BLOCK GRANTS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/13, McKellar, 362K) reports Utah lawmakers on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee "gave initial approval to a resolution calling on the federal government to give states Medicaid funding in the form of block grants." The resolution's sponsor, Sen. Dan Hemmert (R-Orem), said, "Medicaid is going down a path with more and more spending and more and more needs that are not sustainable at the federal level,"

Health & Medical News:

NEW GUIDELINES ISSUED FOR NONINVASIVE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC LOWER BACK PAIN. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/13, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M) reported that for patients with "chronic lower back pain," a "new study" reveals patients "may be better off with stretching and yoga than with ibuprofen and other" analgesics.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/13, story 9, 2:00, Pelley, 11.17M), chief medical correspondent Jon LaPook, MD, explained, "Today's guidelines say the first line of therapy should be non-drug treatment for pain lasting less than three months." Such treatments "include heat wrap, massage, acupuncture and spinal manipulation." The authors of the study emphasize that "clinicians should avoid costly and potential harmful treatments like narcotics." To treat "pain lasting more than three months, treatments include stretching and strengthening exercises, Tai Chi, yoga, acupuncture and mindfulness techniques like meditation to relieve stress." Should those treatments not work, "anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen should be considered first, then medications that can dull nerve pain," such as duloxetine or tramadol, but not opioids.

In an [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/13, story 8, 2:00, Holt, 16.61M) segment, correspondent Kristen Dalgren pointed out that the new recommendations were issued by the American College of Physicians (ACP).

The [New York Times](#) (2/13, A21, Kolata, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that in its recommendations, the ACP "did not address surgery." Instead, "its focus was on noninvasive treatment." In addition, imaging "scans... for diagnosis are worse than useless for back pain patients, members of the group said in telephone interviews." Scan "results can be misleading, showing what look like abnormalities that actually are not related to the pain." The [study](#) was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. As to whether the new guidelines will be adopted and adhered to, the author of an accompanying [editorial](#) observed, "Patients are looking for a cure." He added, "The guidelines are for managing pain." Even if physicians wish to recommend noninvasive treatments, "there is no easy referral system...said" the editorial's author.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/14, A11, Reddy, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) points out that back pain is experienced by four-fifths of adults at some point during their lives and contributes heavily

to employment-related disability as well as to workplace absenteeism, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke has found.

Also covering the story are the [CBS News](#) (2/13, LaPook, 4.4M) website, [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/13, Ricks, 1.3M), the [Philadelphia \(PA\) Inquirer](#) (2/13, Sapatkin, 586K), and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (2/13, Bodkin, 1.04M).

TWO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CRITICIZE MARATHON FOR “UNCONSCIONABLE” PRICE OF DEFLAZACORT; COMPANY DELAYS LAUNCH. The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Johnson, 11.43M) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) sent a letter to the CEO of Marathon Pharmaceuticals, criticizing the company for “abusing” federal incentives designed to encourage development of medications for rare diseases. The two members of Congress called Emflaza’s (deflazacort) \$89,000 price tag “unconscionable” and urged the company to “significantly lower [their] price...before it goes on the market next month.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/13, Greifeld, 2.41M) reports Sanders and Cummings also asked Marathon “to provide documents and information about how much it spent developing the drug and how it set the price.” Sanders and Cummings emphasize that Marathon “did not develop deflazacort,” but rather “acquired the rights to historical clinical trial data from the 1990s and completed some additional analyses to gain approval from the Food and Drug Administration.”

[Reuters](#) (2/13, Clarke) reports Marathon announced it is “pausing” the launch of Emflaza amid “concerns about how the pricing and reimbursement details will affect individual patients and caregivers,” according to CEO Jeffrey Aronin. Additional coverage is provided by: a separate article by [Reuters](#) (2/13, Clarke), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Silverman), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/13, Schencker, 2.54M), [STAT](#) (2/13, Silverman), the [AP](#) (2/13), [CNBC](#) (2/13, Tirell, 2.17M), [The Hill](#) (2/13, Hellmann, 1.25M), the [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Howell, 272K), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/13, Johnson, 4.52M), and [Kaiser Health News](#) (2/13, Tribble, Lupkin, 2K).

ALLERGAN ACQUIRES ZELTIQ AESTHETICS FOR \$2.26 BILLION. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Hufford, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that Allergan will acquire Zeltiq Aesthetics for \$2.26 billion. Zeltiq is the maker of the CoolSculpting system, a treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration to freeze fat cells in order to destroy them over several months.

[Reuters](#) (2/13, Erman, Grover) reports that Allergan “said it would benefit from the cross-selling opportunities for consumers of Zeltiq’s CoolSculpting System... as well as customers of its own facial injectable products.” According to CCO Bill Meury, “Demand for both procedures is high and this is similar to pouring more gas on the fire.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/13, Hopkins, 2.41M) reports that the deal shows that Allergan is “betting on aesthetics” and “doubling down on a lucrative industry where patients pay mostly in cash for products and services.”

[USA Today](#) (2/13, Bomey, 5.28M) reports that the acquisition “marks the latest in a series of deals for Ireland-based Allergan following the company’s scuttled bid to acquire New York-based Pfizer,” which was “upended when the Obama administration stiffened rules to prevent U.S. corporations from engineering deals to move their tax headquarters overseas.”

Additional coverage is provided by the [AP](#) (2/13), the [New York Times](#) (2/13, Cyran, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), and the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (2/13, Avalos, 654K).

OP-ED SAYS LIBERALS COULD MAKE PROGRESS IN REDUCING INCARCERATION DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. Tina Rosenberg writes in a [New York Times](#) (2/14, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) op-ed that the next four years will probably be “bleak” for liberals, “who will spend it trying – and, most likely, failing – to defend health care, women’s rights, climate change action and other good things.” Yet, there is hope for one thing: reducing

incarceration. Rosenberg argues that there is bipartisan support for reducing prison sentences, even in red states such as Texas.

EXTRACT FROM A COMMON PLANT MAY HELP TREAT ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT INFECTIONS, STUDY SUGGESTS. [CBS News](#) (2/13, Welch, 4.4M) reports the berries of the Brazilian peppertree “may hold potential for new ways to treat and prevent antibiotic-resistant infections, a growing problem worldwide,” according to a study by Emory University. Researchers used berry extracts to successfully inhibit the growth of lesions in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*-infected mice. They speculate the compound represses “a gene that allows the bacteria cells to communicate with one another,” preventing them from excreting toxins used to damage tissues. Lead researcher Cassandra Quave hopes their findings “can be leveraged to one day create a new drug therapy to treat humans.”

HILTZIK: DR. OZ FOR-PROFIT STEM CELL CLINIC INVESTIGATION IS A “PUBLIC SERVICE.” Michael Hiltzik writes in his [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/13, Hiltzik, 4.52M) column that Dr. Oz will run a series of segments on his TV show Tuesday exposing “for-profit clinics offering supposed stem cell treatments for an implausible host of diseases.” Hiltzik, who has previously criticized Dr. Oz, calls the investigation “a model of public service,” and details some aspects of the upcoming program, including predatory marketing tactics and exorbitant fees utilized by the clinics. He concludes that the segment will be “Dr. Oz at his best.”

RISE IN NALOXONE PRICES MAY HAMPER ACCESS TO TREATMENT. Columnist Meredith Cohn writes in her [Baltimore Sun](#) (2/13, Cohn, 714K) blog that that price increase of naloxone, an opioid overdose drug, is “leaving hard-hit cities like Baltimore in a constant scramble to purchase and distribute the drug without breaking the bank.” While the drug’s manufacturer says “consumers rarely pay the list price and that sales also go to fund charitable programs to give the drug away,” state programs like Medicaid are stretching their budgets and seeking grants to afford the treatment. Furthermore, a *New England Journal of Medicine* article suggests “costs still may be limiting access and may not be sustainable,” citing a “relatively slow adoption of naloxone” that may be attributed to stigmatization of opioid addiction and rising costs of the drug.

EPIPEN ALTERNATIVE ON SALE TUESDAY FOR SEVEN TIMES HIGHER PRICE. The [New York Daily News](#) (2/13, Brennan, 4.45M) reports that Kaleo’s anti-allergy medication “billed as an ‘accessible and affordable’ alternative to EpiPen” will go on sale Tuesday at a “list price that is more than seven times higher” than Mylan’s product. Auvi-Q will be sold “with a list price of \$4,500 for a two-pack” – by comparison, the EpiPen “went from below \$100 in 2007 to roughly \$600 for a two-pack” last year. Still, the “company says that the \$4,500 list price is for insurers,” and claims that with commercial insurance and “families who make less than \$100,000 annually will be able to receive it for free.” The drug will also be available to the uninsured for \$360.

LOUISVILLE OFFICIALS FEAR DRUG-RELATED OVERDOSES ARE ACCELERATING. The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that “in a span of 32 hours last week, emergency workers in Louisville responded to almost two calls per hour for overdose patients, the highest rate so far this year.” Local officials “said...the number raised concerns that drug-related overdoses and deaths, which started rising last year, are accelerating.”

The [Washington Post](#) (2/14, Andrews, 11.43M) reports that between midnight on Thursday and 8 a.m. on Friday, the “Louisville Metro Emergency Services received 52 overdose calls.” The article reports that Louisville saw 695 such overdoses total last month, which is a 33% increase from last year.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/13, story 2:10, Holt, 16.61M) reported that many of the recent calls were caused by “a dangerous mix of heroin and fentanyl.”

OPINION: PAY-FOR-DELAY AGREEMENTS AN “UNDERHANDED” METHOD TO DELAY

GENERIC COMPETITION. [Bloomberg View](#) (2/13, 125K) columnist Joe Nocera describes how “underhanded” pharmaceutical companies have used so-called “pay-for-delay” agreements to delay generic competition to prescription drugs. Such agreements prop up the price of prescription drugs and go against the purpose of the Hatch-Waxman Act, the “foundational document of the modern generics industry,” which “specifically gave companies incentives to get cheaper drugs on the market quickly.”

NUMBER OF HOTELS IN THE US GOING SMOKE-FREE CONTINUES TO RISE. [USA Today](#) (2/13, Trejos, 5.28M) reports an increasing number of hotel and hotel chains are going smoke-free in the US, with the latest to announce such a policy being Choice Hotels, which owns Comfort Inns and Comfort Suites. According to USA Today, “These rules, in most cases, apply to both traditional and electronic cigarettes, which have become an issue for the hospitality industry in the past few years. The rules extend beyond the guest room to public spaces, such as lobbies,” and so far, have gone largely undisputed from hotel guests, with “hoteliers say[ing] even smokers ask for non-smoking rooms these days.”

COMMENTARY SUGGESTS SECONDHAND SMOKE ISN'T AS BAD AS ANTI-TOBACCO ACTIVISTS CLAIMED. [Slate](#) (2/13, 1.83M) reports “comprehensive smoking bans have proliferated globally,” and “now that the evidence has had time to accumulate, it’s also become clear that the extravagant promises made by anti-smoking groups – that implementing bans would bring about extraordinary improvements in cardiac health – never materialized.” The updated science “debunks the alarmist fantasies that were used to sell smoking bans to the public, allowing for a more sober analysis suggesting that current restrictions on smoking are extreme from a risk-reduction standpoint.” The story surveys the research, noting, “‘No clear link between passive smoking and lung cancer,’ read a 2013 headline in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.” It was “a report on a cohort study tracking 76,000 women that failed to detect a link between the disease and secondhand smoke.”

SCIENTISTS FIND NEW BACTERIAL STRAIN CONTAMINATING SHELLFISH. The [AP](#) (2/13) reports in continuing coverage that “scientists studying oysters along the East Coast may have discovered” that a new strain of “the bacteria *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, is causing diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain.” The strain, “ST631, is endemic to the region, but it is unclear how it became so noxious. Research suggests this bacterium and others may be spreading because of climate change.”

DRUNK DRIVING MAY CONTRIBUTE TO MORE THAN ONE IN FOUR CAR CRASHES AMONG YOUNG, STUDY SUGGESTS. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Rapaport) reports research suggests that drunk driving “contributes to more than one in four motor vehicle fatalities for children, teens and young adults [in the United States] – and nearly half of these deaths happen at night or on weekends.” Researchers “analyzed crashes that occurred from 2000 to 2013 and involved at least one driver with a blood alcohol level of at least 0.08 percent, the legal limit in most states.” People killed in motor vehicle crash fatalities involving alcohol were “predominantly male (73 percent) and most were at least 18 years old.” The [findings](#) were published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

UTAH HOUSE BILL TO ALLOW SUNSCREEN USE AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/13, Morgan, 362K) reports Utah Rep. Craig Hall (R-West Valley City) “is hoping to reduce the risks of skin cancer by allow students to bring sunscreen to school.” Under current Utah law, “students are prohibited from taking to school any medication – even over-the-counter items – unless they have a doctor’s note and parental permission.” The restriction applies to sunscreen because it “is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and is classified as an over-the-counter product.” The House Political Subdivisions Committee unanimously voted Monday to send [HB288](#) to the full House with a “favorable recommendation.”

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SPECIALIST: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES, ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD WORK TO BETTER EDUCATE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ON ANTIBIOTIC

RESISTANCE. In an opinion piece, [Forbes](#) (2/13, 15.17M) contributor Judy Stone, an infectious disease specialist, writes on the dangers of antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis and global issues that have fueled resistance. To address these issues, Stone stresses the importance of medical coverage and access to healthcare. She adds, "Given the high stakes of drug resistance and treatment failure, it is imperative to have all parties – from the patient to the pharmacist or drug vendor to the pharmaceutical companies – understanding the stakes and working together." She argues that "engaging pharmaceutical companies and associations to better educate pharmacists, physicians and patients would be one good step in reducing this huge and complex problem."

MEN MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK AFTER A SNOWFALL, STUDY SUGGESTS. On its website, [NBC News](#) (2/13, Fox, 2.67M) reports that [research](#) published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal suggests "men are more likely to have a heart attack after a snowfall, and it's probably from the exertion of shoveling snow." Investigators "studied 128,000 heart attack cases between 1981 and 2014, and more than 68,000 people who died."

[Reuters](#) (2/13, Rapaport) reports that "compared with periods without any snow, men were 16 percent more likely to have a heart attack and 34 percent more likely to die from a heart attack after a storm dropped at least 20 centimeters (about 8 inches) of snow."

[TIME](#) (2/13, MacMillan, 6.98M) reports, however, that "women...did not appear to be at higher risk after snowfalls than on other days." Also covering the story are [Global News \(CAN\)](#) (2/13, Chai, Goh, 62K) and [CBC \(CAN\)](#) (2/13, 280K).

TRADITIONAL MEDITERRANEAN DIET WITH ADDED OLIVE OIL MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH LOWER RISK OF HEART DISEASE, RESEARCH SUGGESTS. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Rapaport) reports that [research](#) published in *Circulation* suggests "a traditional Mediterranean diet with added olive oil may be tied to a lower risk of heart disease at least in part because it helps maintain healthy blood flow and clear debris from arteries."

[Medscape](#) (2/13, Wendling, 339K) reports, "In a subset of 296 patients at high risk of heart disease in the PREDIMED study, cholesterol efflux capacity (CEC), the first step in reverse cholesterol transport, was significantly increased at 1 year compared with baseline in those advised to eat a Mediterranean diet rich in virgin olive oil (VOO) (P=0.018) or mixed nuts (P=0.013) rather than a reduced-fat diet." The study also indicated that "both Mediterranean-diet groups had a trend toward improved antioxidant and endothelial functions of HDL, although the changes were statistically significant only in the Mediterranean diet–VOO group."

CHILDREN IN HOMES WITH FEWER RULES, ROUTINES MAY HAVE A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF BEING KEPT UP AT NIGHT BY NOISE FROM OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, STUDY INDICATES. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Kennedy) reports that research suggests children "in homes with fewer rules and routines are more likely to be kept up at night by noise from other family members' activities." The study indicated that "even in homes where parents enforced kids' sleep rules, that wasn't enough to prevent" children "from being kept awake when other people were doing things like watching TV or having friends over." The [findings](#) were published online in *Sleep Health*.

HORMONE-RELATED CHANGES TIED TO MENOPAUSE MAY MAKE AGING WOMEN MORE PRONE TO FALLING. The [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (2/13, Rosner, 168K) runs a Connecticut Health I-Team Report saying, "A growing number of women are getting hurt by falling, and they are much more likely to suffer fall-related injuries than men." In fact, "from 2011 to 2014, 51 women per 1,000 population were hurt in falls, up from 47 per 1,000 from 2005 to 2008, according to [recent data](#) (pdf) from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." Some of the primary reasons women are prone to falling appear, particularly in their older years, to be "hormone-related changes associated with menopause."

NUMBER OF RETIREMENT-AGE AMERICANS TAKING AT LEAST THREE PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS MORE THAN DOUBLED BETWEEN 2004 AND 2013, RESEARCHERS SAY.

The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Carey, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, "The number of retirement-age Americans taking at least three psychiatric" medications "more than doubled between 2004 and 2013, even though almost half of them had no mental health diagnosis on record, researchers" found after analyzing "data from annual government surveys of office-based" physicians. In particular, investigators "focused on office visits by people 65 or older that resulted in the prescribing of at least three of a list of psychiatric, sleep and pain medications." The [findings](#) were published online Feb. 13 in a research letter in JAMA Internal Medicine.

[AFP](#) (2/13) also covers the study.

PSYCHIATRIST: FAR MORE RESEARCH NEEDED ON EFFECTIVENESS, SAFETY OF PSYCHEDELICS AS MEDICAL TREATMENT.

In an opinion piece in the [New York Times](#) (2/13, A23, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), psychiatrist Richard A. Friedman, MD, professor of clinical psychiatry and the director of the psychopharmacology clinic at the Weill Cornell Medical College, wrote that psychedelics "are making a comeback – this time as medical treatment." But, even though proponents "point out that there is little evidence that these drugs are habit forming or harmful, especially not in low doses," there "is little question from clinical experience that psychedelics can be behaviorally toxic." Dr. Friedman pointed out, "The bottom line is that we don't know how safe or effective psychedelics are because most of the data have been anecdotal or from small trials." Far more research is needed in the form of "large, rigorous, placebo-controlled trials," he concluded.

APA RELEASES GUIDELINES TO HELP PATIENTS, CLINICIANS EVALUATE SPECIFIC APPS.

In "The Blog" in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/13, 237K), psychiatrist and author Dora Calott Wang, MD, writes, "In a landmark act of medical leadership, the American Psychiatric Association in January released guidelines to help patients and their clinicians evaluate specific apps." What's more, "the American Medical Association has announced it will soon follow suit." Dr. Wang quotes John Torous, MD, who chairs the APA Workgroup on Smartphone Evaluation. Dr. Torous said that "when it comes to health apps, 'there are more risks than meet the eye.'" According to Dr. Wang, "the [APA App Evaluation Model](#) was a culmination of two years of discussions and focus groups by the APA Workgroup on Smartphone Evaluation, and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society's Health Information Technology Committee."

Global Health:

INDIA SURPASSES CHINA IN AIR POLLUTION-RELATED DEATHS. The [New York Times](#) (2/14, Anand, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports "India's rapidly worsening air pollution is causing about 1.1 million people to die prematurely each year and is now surpassing China's as the deadliest in the world," according to a new study by the Health Effects Institute and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation. The study found an "increase of nearly 50 percent in premature deaths from particulate matter between 1990 and 2015" in the country. [Reuters](#) (2/14, Stanway) reports the study also found that "air pollution caused more than 4.2 million early deaths worldwide in 2015, making it the fifth highest cause of death." 2.2 million of the deaths came from "China and India alone."

The [Financial Times](#) (2/14, Stacey, Subscription Publication, 1.39M) also provides coverage.

"SUPERSPREADERS" MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF EBOLA CASES DURING EPIDEMIC, STUDY SUGGESTS.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Sun, 11.43M) "To Your Health" blog reports research suggests that "superspreaders" played a large role in the spread of the Ebola virus during the 2014-2015 epidemic in West Africa. If the superspreaders "had been completely controlled, almost two-thirds of the infections might have been prevented, scientists said." The [findings](#) were published in the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences. [AFP](#) (2/13) and [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (2/14, Gallagher, 2.39M) also cover the story.

SEVEN KENYAN PHYSICIAN UNION TOP OFFICIALS IMPRISONED FOR NOT STOPPING MEDICAL STRIKE. The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Ombuor, 11.43M) reports a court in Kenya imprisoned seven top officials from a union on Monday “after they refused to call off [a] strike that has paralyzed the nation’s health system for the past two months.” The union “is demanding a 300 percent salary increase based on an agreement signed between the doctors and the government in June 2013.” More than 5,000 physicians have been striking for higher pay and expanded staff. The strike has “already dilapidated [the] public health system...and private hospitals have been inundated.” Physicians “have halted all talks with the government pending the release of their officials.” The [AP](#) (2/13, Odula) also covers the story.

CANCER PATIENTS STRUGGLING AMID YEMEN CONFLICT. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Browning) reports that thousands of cancer patients in Yemen “are being forced to seek life-saving medicines on the black market” as the health system struggles after two years of war. The conflict “between the armed Houthi movement and a Saudi-led military coalition has killed over 10,000 people and triggered a slow-motion economic collapse, forcing health staff to work without pay and undercutting patients’ ability to afford their own treatment.”

VACCINATION RATES IN ITALY LOWEST IN WESTERN EUROPE. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Lombardi, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports vaccination rates in Italy have become a concern with the share of Italian one-year-olds immunized against measles dipping down by at least five percent since 2012, according to the World Health Organization. In 2015, the country’s immunization rates were the lowest in Western Europe, roughly on par with those in Romania and Serbia, WHO figures show. Italy’s Health Ministry is considering requiring vaccinations for school enrollment in order to reverse the trend. The proposal has sparked protests in some quarters.

ABOUT 776,000 POULTRY CULLED IN GERMANY SINCE OUTBREAK OF BIRD FLU. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Busemann, Hogan) reports Germany’s agriculture ministry announced Monday that 776,000 birds have been culled in the country since November to combat avian influenza. Reuters points out that “wild birds are suspected to be spreading the disease.”

TAIWAN CONFIRMS NEW CASES OF H5N6 BIRD FLU, HAS CULLED NEARLY 130,000 BIRDS. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Wu) reports Taiwan’s Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine has confirmed the “highly pathogenic H5N6 avian flu...in three cities and counties.” On Tuesday, officials reported that so far, Taiwan has culled nearly 130,000 poultry. The global spread “of bird flu and the number of viral strains currently circulating and causing infections have reached unprecedented levels, raising the risk of a potential human outbreak, according to disease experts.”

National News:

FLYNN RESIGNS; KELLOGG NAMED ACTING NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. Michael Flynn’s late-evening resignation as national security adviser came at the end of a day in which many Democrats called for Flynn to be fired and in which the White House offered mixed messages on whether he would remain. The White House announced just after 11 p.m. ET that retired Lt. Gen. Joseph Keith Kellogg Jr. would serve as acting NSA, and CNN and the Wall Street Journal both reported that according to an Administration source, Kellogg, former Central Command Deputy Commander Robert Harward, and ex-CIA Director David Petraeus are under consideration for the permanent post.

Coverage of the resignation itself is generally brief and straightforward, given that it broke late in the evening, though some analysts express surprise over how quickly Flynn made his exit. Jim Acosta said on [CNN Tonight](#) (2/13, 475K), “That is a pretty stunning development. ... We were hearing just yesterday that Mike Flynn had no intention to resign, and was not expecting to be

fired today, but obviously the day's events have caught up with him, the weight of this scandal was enough to force him out of this very important position in the Trump Administration."

John Roberts said on [Fox News](#) (2/13, 11.07M), "This is kind of a logical outgrowth from what we've seen over the past 12 hours coming out of the White House. I was told [that] as of last night, it looked as though [Flynn] would probably, the words that were used were 'skate through' this controversy. ... But then as of this morning, when the President saw all the negative press that was coming out about Flynn and about these conversations that he had had with the Russian ambassador, that he just thought Flynn was becoming far too big a liability."

The [AP](#) (2/13, Pace, Tucker, Colvin) reports that the "embattled" Flynn resigned "following reports that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his contacts with Russia. His departure upends Trump's senior team after less than one month in office." Flynn said in [his resignation letter](#) that "he held numerous calls with the Russian ambassador to the US during the transition and gave 'incomplete information' about those discussions" to Pence.

The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Rosenberg, Apuzzo, Thrush, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Flynn had "previously had denied that he had any substantive conversations" with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, "but on Monday, a former administration official said the Justice Department last month warned the White House that Mr. Flynn had not been fully forthright about his conversations with the ambassador. As a result, the Justice Department feared that Mr. Flynn could be vulnerable to blackmail by Moscow." The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Entous, Nakashima, Rucker, 11.43M) reports that then-Acting Attorney General Sally Yates informed the White House last month that she believed Flynn had misled senior Administration officials.

[USA Today](#) (2/13, Ventura, 5.28M) reports that earlier Monday evening, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said in a statement, "The President is evaluating the situation. He's speaking to the Vice President relative to the conversation the Vice President had with Gen. Flynn, and also speaking to various other people about what he considers the single most important subject there is: our national security." USA Today writes that also on Monday, Kellyanne Conway "told [MSNBC](#) that Trump has 'full confidence' in Flynn. But one official told CNN that Flynn's future could be shaky given the development." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (2/13, 686K), "There has been some whiplash today at the White House."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/13, Talev, Pettypiece, 201K) says the resignation "capped a night in which top White House officials shuttled between the Oval Office" and Spicer's office. Among them were Chief of Staff Priebus, Conway, and "top lawyer Don McGahn." [CNN](#) (2/13, Murray, Borger, Diamond, 29.79M) says Flynn's "sudden exit marks the most public display yet of disarray at the highest levels of the new administration, which has faced repeated questions over a slew of controversies and reports of infighting among senior aides during its first three weeks."

[NBC News](#) (2/14, Greenberg, Johnson, Welker, 2.67M) reports on its website that the President "pointedly declined to answer reporters' questions about Flynn on Monday afternoon, saying only, 'We just put out a statement.'" [Fox News](#) (2/13, 11.07M) says that Trump, "who comments on a steady stream of issues on his Twitter feed, has been conspicuously silent" about Flynn since his discussions with Kislyak were first reported last week.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says that Flynn was one of Trump's first and most vocal campaign supporters. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/13, Date, 237K) says that Flynn, "like Trump, has advocated a closer relationship with Russia as an ally in the fight against Islamic terrorism." Gloria Borger said on [CNN Tonight](#) (2/13, 475K), "The President, I was told by one source, is very loyal to the people who have been loyal to him, and you'll recall that Flynn was very loyal to him. And that I was told it was this 'flood of information' that was coming in, that in the end the dam burst, and the President had no choice."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/14, Costa, 11.43M) reports that Harward "became the front-runner late

Monday" to replace Flynn, "following lengthy discussions among top advisers to President Trump and several Cabinet members after Flynn resigned." Harward's "rapid ascension to the top of Trump's three-person shortlist for the position was confirmed by two White House officials who were not authorized to speak publicly."

In addition to Kellogg, Harward, and Petraeus, [Politico](#) (2/13, Palmeri, Stokols, 2.46M) reports that other possible replacements include ex-NSA Stephen Hadley, DHS Secretary Kelly, and retired Adm. James Stavridis. Among the other sources with brief reports on the breaking news are [Reuters](#) (2/13, Holland), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/13, Memoli, 4.52M), and the [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Dinan, 272K).

The evolving story had been big news Monday even before the resignation. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/13, lead story, 2:40, Pelley, 11.17M) led with it, saying that "the President's adviser on national security may not have much job security. ... Conway said the President had full confidence in Michael Flynn, but minutes later the White House rushed out a correction saying that Mr. Trump is evaluating Flynn." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/13, story 2, 3:35, Muir, 14.63M), Jonathan Karl reported that Flynn apologized to Pence "for misleading him and the American public about the phone call he had with a Russian ambassador back in January. ... The President dodged questions about whether Flynn would keep his job, but later...Conway offered the Administration's first show of public support for Flynn since the story broke." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/13, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 16.61M) reported that the White House was "offering differing signals over Flynn's future."

[The Hill](#) (2/13, Williams, 1.25M) reported that "dozens of House Democrats" had been preparing to urge the President to suspend Flynn and deny him access to classified material. House Minority Leader Pelosi posted [six tweets](#) Monday containing the hashtag #FireFlynn. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, was asked earlier Monday on [MSNBC's MTP Daily](#) (2/13) if he is confident of the job Flynn is doing. Schiff said, "No, I'm not at all. And of course this comes on the heels of a troubled past when he was the head of the DIA. ... I really think it's time for him to step down." Sen. Chris Coons similarly said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/13, 554K) that he is "very worried" about "the lack of confidence expressed in Mike Flynn."

Senate Homeland Security Chairman Ron Johnson declined to directly support Flynn during an appearance on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/13, 554K), saying, "His position is not a Senate confirmable position. I haven't been privy to those conversations. All I know is what I have heard in news reports. From my standpoint, this a matter within the Administration and a decision for the President to make, not me."

In a [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) column posted before Flynn resigned, Richard Cohen wrote, "Flynn, ousted from his previous job for an allegedly chaotic management style, has apparently not lost his touch." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) asks in an editorial if intelligence services had authority to listen in on Flynn's calls, and if so, why.

[Reaction on Twitter](#) is mostly critical of Flynn, with some noting the irony of the national security adviser putting national security at risk, and others recalling that Flynn led "Lock her up!" chants against Hillary Clinton but may himself have broken the law. Twitter reaction to the possibility of Petraeus succeeding Flynn is [heavily negative](#), primarily due to his own mishandling of classified information.

WPost A1 Analysis: Chaos Becoming "Standard Operating Procedure." In a front-page piece posted before the resignation was public knowledge, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, A1, Parker, Rucker, 11.43M) said that "the upheaval inside the administration that West Wing officials had optimistically dismissed as growing pains is now cementing itself as standard operating procedure." According to interviews with White House officials and other Republicans, "the chaos and competing factions that were a Trump trademark in business and campaigning now are

threatening to plague his presidency." Republican strategist Steve Schmidt said, "None of this is normal. The incompetence, the sloppiness, and the leaking is unprecedented."

In his [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) column, Michael Gerson writes that "former officials with deep knowledge of the presidency" say the current Administration has "five or six power centers and little vertical structure." The President "has run a family business but never a large organization. Nor has he seen such an organization as an employee." The goal of aides' television appearances, Gerson writes, "is not to persuade or even explain. It is to confidently repeat Trump's most absurd or unsubstantiated claims from the previous week."

Gerald Seib writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) column that this might be a good time for a reboot of an Administration that has been roiled with controversy and infighting in its first weeks.

WAYS AND MEANS CHAIRMAN REJECTS PROPOSAL TO REQUEST TRUMP'S TAX RETURNS. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Morgan) reports House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) on Monday said that his committee will not try to get a copy of President Trump's tax returns. That was in response to a letter from committee member Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) asking Brady to request the returns from the US Treasury. Sen. Orrin Hatch, who chairs both the Senate Finance Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation, has also rejected the idea. [USA Today](#) (2/13, Jackson, 5.28M) quotes Brady saying, "If Congress begins to use its powers to rummage around in the tax returns of the President, what prevents Congress from doing the same to average Americans?" USA Today points out that Congress in 1974 examined President Nixon's returns. [Politico](#) (2/13, Becker, 2.46M) says Brady "blasted" Pascrell's request and said that his letter "misrepresents the legislative intent" of the act. Politico says the chairman of the Ways and Means committee has the power under the Internal Revenue Code to request individual returns.

SUNUNU "NOT AWARE OF ANY WIDESPREAD VOTER FRAUD" IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. On its website, [WBIN-TV](#) Concord, NH (2/13, Steinhauser) reported that New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu (R) "says 'I'm not aware of any widespread voter fraud' in the Granite State," though the Republican "added that voting laws need to be 'tightened up.'" Sununu, who made the remarks in a Monday interview with WBIN-TV, was "reacting to the claims late last week from President Trump of massive voter fraud across the country in November's election, including the busing of people from Massachusetts to vote in New Hampshire." Trump's "unsubstantiated allegations were repeated on Sunday by senior White House adviser Stephen Miller."

[The Hill](#) (2/13, Hensch, 1.25M) said that Trump "reportedly blamed voter fraud last week as the reason Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) lost her Senate seat in November." Trump "claimed during a Feb. 9 meeting that Ayotte's reelection bid was foiled by 'thousands' of people from Massachusetts illegally casting ballots in the Granite State."

Under the headline "Voter Fraud In New Hampshire? Trump Has No Proof And Many Skeptics," the [New York Times](#) (2/13, Seelye, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) also reports on Trump's claim of illegal voting in the Granite State, saying that a number "of prominent Republicans in New Hampshire say it is absurd, one even offering cash to anyone who can produce evidence of a single out-of-state voter." The Times adds that though "election officials have unearthed isolated instances of voter fraud or people voting improperly in New Hampshire, neither the secretary of state nor the attorney general has found any evidence of fraud on the scale alleged by Mr. Trump."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) criticizes Miller for asserting that Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud in New Hampshire are accurate. The Times says, "Baseless claims about 'widespread' voter fraud have become so frequent, and so shameless, that it's tempting to succumb to the fatigue of fighting them and laugh them off. Under President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who became famous by prosecuting bogus

voter-fraud cases in Alabama, that would be a big mistake."

Weintraub: Trump Yet To Respond To Request For Evidence Of Voter Fraud. Federal Elections Commissioner Ellen Weintraub (D) was asked on [CNN's Out Front](#) (2/13, 409K) if Trump has responded to her request for evidence of voter fraud. Weintraub said, "No, not yet." Asked if it is possible that Trump supporters know something she doesn't about the matter, Weintraub said, "Of course it's possible, that's why I've asked for the evidence. The American people would like to know about that as well. Since I made my request on Friday, I heard from thousands of American citizens. They have echoed my concerns and thanked me for speaking out and said they, too, would like to see if there is any evidence of this massive conspiracy, which would be a huge criminal conspiracy. They'd like to see it, I'd like to see it."

Paul Bedard said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (2/13, 686K), "Trump projects – you always know what he's worried about by what he attacks others on. He's worried that his victory is tainted because of Russian involvement and so he has to concoct some theory of Democratic voter fraud."

Dana Bash, commenting on Miller's remarks backing up Trump's claims on voter fraud in New Hampshire, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/13, 554K) that Miller "has a special place in Donald Trump's heart because first and foremost Donald Trump thinks he is very smart and he's very willing to go out and say things without any kind of fact or evidence basis to back it up like this voter fraud situation."

POLITICO: PENCE HAS INSTALLED "CONSERVATIVE ALLIES" THROUGHOUT ADMINISTRATION. Under the headline "Pence Molds The Government In His Own Image," [Politico](#) (2/13, Severns, Nussbaum, 2.46M) reported that while President Trump "never exactly fit the conservative mold," with the Trump Administration now taking "shape, Vice President Mike Pence has used his position atop the transition team and in the White House to install conservative allies throughout several agencies and at almost every level of government, giving the government a more orthodox cast. 'I think this whole administration is replete with social conservatives,' said Peggy Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America, a Christian activist group." Politico added that Pence's "emphasis on limited government and his conservative social views are distinct from the America First-style populism of Trump or top advisers like Steve Bannon, creating a divide that could influence policymaking on health care, education and social issues."

EMANUEL MEETS WITH PRIEBUS AND KUSHNER. [TIME](#) (2/13, Miller, 6.98M) reports that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel met with Chief of Staff Priebus and Jared Kushner at the White House on Monday "to discuss priorities for his city and to offer advice" to Priebus, who holds the job Emanuel had for the first 20 months of the Obama Administration. TIME notes that President Trump "has promised a tougher response on crime in Chicago, threatening to 'send in the Feds' if the city doesn't get its murder rate under the control."

GATEWAY PUNDIT RECEIVES WHITE HOUSE PRESS CREDENTIALS. The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Grynbaum, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports the Gateway Pundit, which the Times says is known "for its fervent pro-Trump coverage" as well as "promoting false rumors about voter fraud and Hillary Clinton's health," now has White House press credentials for its Washington reporter Lucian B. Wintrich. Wintrich attended Monday's news conference with President Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The move, says the Times, "raised concerns" the Administration may be "favoring outlets more sympathetic to its views."

WSJOURNAL EDITOR IN CHIEF DEFENDS PAPER'S COVERAGE OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION. The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Ember, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports in a meeting with staff, Wall Street Journal editor in chief Gerard Baker "vigorously defended" the paper's coverage of President Trump. He also said that those looking for "a more oppositional stance" should look for a position "elsewhere." Some of the paper's reporters are "concerned that

the paper was holding them back from aggressively covering Mr. Trump." [Politico](#) (2/13, Pompeo, Gold, 2.46M) says Baker gave "a vigorous defense" of the paper's coverage, in which he said "claims the Journal has been soft on Trump" are "fake news." Politico says the journal gained "a reputation for access-driven campaign coverage" last fall.

ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS SAID TO RECALL TEA PARTY DEMONSTRATIONS. Under the headline "Anti-Trump Fervor Sparks A New, Liberal Kind Of Tea Party Activism," the [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/13, Gray, Shamus, 1.01M) reports, "From the millions of people around the world who attended the Women's March the day after" President Trump's inauguration "to the 200 people who showed up at a Washtenaw County [Michigan] Democratic Party meeting on Super Bowl Sunday to the 600 people who crowded into a town hall meeting hosted by" Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI) "last week, the early days of the Trump administration are beginning to look like the tea party movement that blossomed in 2009 in response to the presidency of Barack Obama."

Blow: "Fighting-Mad Majority" Emerging Against Trump. Charles Blow writes in his [New York Times](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), "Welcome to the dawn of the fighting-mad majority: The ones who didn't vote for [Donald] Trump and maybe even some who now regret that they did." Blow calls Trump "a vulgar, uninformed, anti-intellectual, extremely unpopular grifter helming a family of grifters who apparently intend to milk their moment on the mount for every red cent," and says "unethical is too kind a word" for his inner circle of "classless cretins." His Cabinet is "a rogues' gallery of some of the least qualified, most questionable appointees in recent memory." Blow concludes, "Trump is not normal. He is not competent. And we will not simply sit back and suck it up."

YELLEN TO TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS THIS WEEK. The [AP](#) (2/13, Crutsinger) reports Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen will give her semiannual testimony to Congress this week, on Tuesday to the Senate and on Wednesday to the House. The Fed is expected to "leave rates alone" for a while as it tries to understand President Trump's economic plans and gauge the likely effects. Yellen is expected to be cautious, waiting to see what the President's economic policy will be and how the Congress acts.

Dallas Federal Reserve President Urges Fed To Raise Interest Rates Soon. [Reuters](#) (2/13, Saphir) reports Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan said on Monday that the Federal Reserve should raise rates soon or may not have time to do it "gradually." Kaplan has a vote on the FOMC.

STOCKS CONTINUE GAINS MONDAY WITH S&P AT ANOTHER RECORD. The [AP](#) (2/13) reports stocks posted gains "around the world" Monday, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index set a new record, up 0.5 percent to 2,328.25. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 0.7 percent to 20,412.16, while the Nasdaq was up 0.5 percent to 5,763.96. The climbing prices were credited to "stronger-than-expected company profits, continued improvement in the US economy, and expectations for business-friendly policies." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Banerji, Gold, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) cites growth in large stocks including Apple, Caterpillar, and Goldman Sachs Group for the growth in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, but says that broader gains led to new highs in other indexes.

WHITE HOUSE REMAINS CLOSED TO TOURS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Heil, 11.43M) reports the White House has been closed to tours for an "unusually long" period following the inauguration. In response, "at least two dozen" Members of Congress have requested the office for tours to reopen soon. Lindsay Reynolds, chief of staff to First Lady Melania Trump, previously served as "associate director of the visitors office under President George W. Bush." On February 1, she said, "I am working to ensure that the White House Visitors Office is fully staffed and operational and ready to accept tour requests for the public in the coming weeks."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS REMOVES MISSPELLED MARKETING MATERIALS FOR INAUGURATION POSTER. The [AP](#) (2/13) reports the Library of Congress removed the

marketing for a poster from President Trump's inauguration from its online store after Twitter users commented on a misspelling. In the President's quote, "No dream is too big, no challenge is to great." It should read "too great." Library spokeswoman Gayle Osterberg said, "The item itself does not contain the error."

TRUMP VISITED WEDDING OF MAJOR DONOR'S SON AT MAR-A-LAGO. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/13, Blumenthal, 237K) reports that on Saturday, President Trump "popped into the wedding of Carl Lindner IV and Vanessa Jane Falk" at his Mar-a-Lago club. Lindner is the son of Carl Lindner III, co-CEO of American Financial Group, who along with other family members and his company, "donated \$500,000 to support Trump's nomination and election." The HuffPo says that members of the club are paying for access to the president.

JOHN OLIVER RUNS ADS TO REACH TRUMP WITH "FACTS" HE WANTS PRESIDENT TO KNOW. The [New York Daily News](#) (2/13, Bodner, 4.45M) reports that John Oliver, host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight," has purchased "ads with facts Trump should know" on the CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News program the President is believed to watch. Oliver had ads made featuring "a man dressed up as a cowboy who explained things like what the nuclear triad is, demographics of urban areas and that there are other people in the world other than himself."

SOURCES: WHITE HOUSE SCOUTING TRUMP'S POTENTIAL 2020 DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGERS. Citing unnamed "sources," the [New York Post](#) (2/12, Short, 3.82M) reported, "The White House is already tracking which Democrats could challenge President Trump in 2020 and Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand aren't on the list." The Post said Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon "asked consultants to scour the backgrounds of four outspoken Democrats – Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, two sources close to the administration said. 'The White House political department wants people to start looking into them,' said one source close to the White House. 'Trump is obsessed with running for re-election.'" The Post added that "the White House's 'biggest fear' is that Cuban, a billionaire businessman, would run because he can appeal to Republicans and independents, the sources said."

DNC CHAIR CANDIDATES: CLINTON FOCUSED TOO MUCH ON ATTACKING TRUMP. In an online report, the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Hohmann, 11.43M) said, "Every leading contender" in the race for the DNC chairmanship "believes Hillary Clinton focused too much on attacking Donald Trump at the expense of articulating an affirmative case for holding the White House." During a Saturday forum in Baltimore, "there was consensus that the party's problems derive mainly from subpar organization and communication – not anything fundamental." For example, ex-Labor Secretary Tom Perez, "the clear frontrunner" in the DNC race, said, "We forgot to talk to people," adding, "I'm a big believer in data analytics, but data analytics cannot supplant good old fashioned door knocking. ... We didn't communicate our values to people. When Donald Trump says, 'I'm going to bring the coal jobs back,' we know that's a lie. But people understand that he feels their pain. And our response was: 'Vote for us because he's crazy.' I'll stipulate to that, but that's not a message."

Cillizza: "Democrats Would Be Foolish" To Back Another Hillary Clinton Run. Writing in "The Fix" blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, Cillizza, 11.43M), Chris Cillizza pointed out that Matt Latimer argued in a recent [piece](#) for Politico Magazine that Hillary Clinton is eyeing another White House run in 2020. However, Cillizza said that while Clinton is very unlikely to do so, if she does show "signs that she truly is interested in running, Democrats should make very clear that they aren't interested. Clinton ran two national campaigns" and both times "she didn't win. Why? Because there was something about her that people didn't like or trust." Cillizza added, "Clinton should not – and I believe will not – run again in 2020. But Democrats would be foolish to, again, place all their bets on Clinton. That time has passed."

Latinos Divided Between Ellison And Perez In DNC Race. [The Hill](#) (2/13, Bernal, 1.25M) reported that in the race for the DNC chairmanship, "Latino Democrats are splitting their vote."

Although “Perez is a leading contender for the race, many liberal Latinos are backing his main rival, Rep. Keith Ellison.” The Hill added that Hilda Solis, “Perez’s predecessor as secretary of Labor and a Clinton supporter in last year’s campaign, supports Ellison and says he’s the right person to bring the progressive and centrist wings of the party together.” Even so, “many Hispanic Clinton allies have stuck to Perez, who himself was a top Clinton surrogate.”

Ex-KKK Leader David Duke Endorses Ellison In DNC Race. Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (2/13, Ernst, 272K) reports that ex-Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke on Monday endorsed Ellison for DNC chairman, “alluding to claims by critics that he is anti-Semitic. ‘Keith Ellison, Sally Boynton Brown or Jehmu Greene would all be excellent choices – I really like Keith though... I mean, at least he knows,’ Mr. Duke tweeted. The ‘at least he knows’ remark appears to be a reference to Mr. Ellison’s past with the Nation of Islam and comments about Louis Farrakhan.”

RNC TWEETS “FALSE LINCOLN QUOTE.” The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Fortin, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports, “In a tweet celebrating the Feb. 12 birthday of Abraham Lincoln,” the RNC this past weekend “attributed a short quote to the 16th US president.” According to the Times, the RNC tweeted, “And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count it’s the life in your years.” The Times adds, however, “There is no documentation of Lincoln uttering these words, according to James Cornelius, curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The committee’s tweet was taken down on Monday morning. But in a political atmosphere buzzing with acrimonious debates over fake news and alternative facts, the error” drew criticism “on social media and in news reports.” The Times points out, “The false Lincoln quote was immediately picked up by President Trump, who posted the image to his Instagram account.”

WTIMES: PROGRESSIVES COOL TO NOTION OF CHELSEA CLINTON RUNNING FOR OFFICE. The [Washington Times](#) (2/13, McLaughlin, 272K) reports, “The activists who fueled Sen. Bernard Sanders’ presidential bid last year and who have become the raging heart of the [Democratic Party] as it seeks to rebuild itself, shudder at the thought of” Chelsea Clinton, daughter of Hillary Clinton, “searching for a race of her own.” The Times says there was some buzz last week that Chelsea Clinton might be considering a 2018 bid to succeed Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D), if the seat became open. However, Clinton “flatly ruled out that notion over the weekend,” though she “has previously said that seeking public office is ‘absolutely’ a possibility.” The Times adds that some in attendance at Saturday’s DNC forum in Baltimore “predicted that she would have a tough time ditching the family baggage.”

WSJOURNAL A1 PROFILES POWERFUL LOBBYIST NOW UNDER FEDERAL INVESTIGATION. In a front-page report headlined “The Rise And Fall Of A K Street Renegade,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, A1, Mullins, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) profiles Evan Morris, who rose from a Clinton White House intern to become a high-profile lobbyist in Washington for Switzerland’s Roche Holding AG, one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world. The Journal says that Morris is now under investigation by the FBI and Justice Department, suspected of embezzling millions of dollars from Roche in a kickback scheme that involved consultants in Washington, according to those familiar with the investigation.

SUIT ALLEGES VOTING SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY UNFAIR TO BLACK RESIDENTS. [USA Today](#) (2/13, Eversley, 5.28M) reports that in an effort “to create a better chance for black residents of rural areas to get elected to local office,” lawyers “from the Washington-based Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and two private law firms filed...suit Monday in federal court in North Carolina. The suit alleges that the black residents who account for about a third of the population in Jones County, N.C., are prevented from electing candidates who represent their needs because the county elects commissioners at large rather than by district.” The suit also “alleges the at-large system prevents black residents from electing black candidates from their communities, and says the at-large system dilutes black voting power.”

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (2/13, Blythe, 383K) reports, "The county's history of all-white boards of commissioners goes back to 1998. The last time a black candidate was elected to the five-member board was 1994." The News & Observer adds, "The lawsuit seeks to change the election process for the Board of Commissioners to one that provides for single-member voting districts. The proposed alternative districts would include one in which African-Americans would comprise a majority of voters, giving them a better opportunity of electing a board member."

JUDGE DENIES REQUEST TO STOP CONSTRUCTION OF DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE.

The [AP](#) (2/13, Hananel, Nicholson) reports US District Judge James Boasberg on Monday "refused to stop construction on the last stretch of the Dakota Access pipeline." Judge Boasberg ruled that without oil in the pipeline, it poses "no imminent harm to the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux tribes." The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's lawyer argued, "The mere presence of the oil in the pipeline renders the water spiritually impure."

AIRLINES PUSH FOR PRIVATIZING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL. [McClatchy](#) (2/13, Tate, 74K) reports "major airlines and their trade associations" are asking the Administration to remove the air traffic control system from the FAA, which has been responsible for air traffic control since 1958. Transportation Secretary Chao has been "noncommittal," and "Democrats and a few congressional Republicans" have opposed the idea, arguing that it "could hurt small airports and companies that make business and personal aircraft." Congress must reauthorize the FAA by September 30 and disputes over air traffic control could make it more difficult to meet that deadline. The large airlines, says McClatchy, favor privatization because they believe it would be able to establish "NextGen, a satellite-based control system that would replace ground-based radar technology," more quickly.

EMERGENCY CREWS RACING TO REPAIR CALIFORNIA DAM. [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/13, lead story, 2:45, Holt, 16.61M) reported in its lead story that emergency crews are racing to repair the damaged Lake Oroville emergency spillway that could unleash a 30-foot wall of water on communities downstream before rains arrive later in the week. According to [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/13, lead story, 3:50, Muir, 14.63M), more than 200,000 downstream residents have been told to evacuate, with many sleeping at shelters. The [AP](#) (2/13, Thompson) reports Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea's statement that evacuees will not be able to return until California Department of Water Resources officials have repaired the dam, but a timeline has not yet been determined. The California National Guard is reportedly on standby.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/13, story 5, 2:20, Pelley, 11.17M) reported environmental groups issued warnings in 2005 of the potential for "severe damage downstream" if steps were not taken to reinforce the emergency spillway. According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/13, Serna, 4.52M) the foreseen "extensive erosion" of the spillway has taken place and flooding would likely impact the spillway road and high-voltage transmission towers.

The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that the emergency is "the latest wake-up call" that American infrastructure is crumbling from lack of necessary repairs. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates the cost of repairing the country's dams, whose average age is 52, at \$21 billion. The Times says President Trump's proposal to fund \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending with investor tax credits is not a sound strategy for keeping public works safe despite its likely profitability for developers.

CHICAGO MANHUNT UNDERWAY FOR SUSPECT IN TWO SHOOTINGS OF YOUNG GIRLS.

According to [ABC World News Tonight](#) (2/13, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 14.63M), Chicago police are conducting a manhunt for the suspect in two separate shooting incidents thirty minutes apart. According to authorities, neither the 12-year-old girl on the playground nor the 11-year-old girl in a minivan's backseat now "fighting for their lives" were the intended targets.

RAMPELL: HENSARLING CHANGES TO CFPB WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR FINANCIAL FIRMS TO CHEAT. Catherine Rampell writes in her column in the [Washington Post](#) (2/13,

Rampell, 11.43M) defending the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and criticizing House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX). Rampell says that Hensarling is "making it easier for the finance industry to rip...off" Americans. She says that one of Hensarling's proposed changes is to make the CFPB director "an at-will political appointee." In addition, the CFPB "would no longer be allowed to punish firms that cheat their customers."

MILBANK: CHAFFETZ SHOULD INVESTIGATE ADMINISTRATION. Dana Milbank writes in his column in the [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M), criticizing Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, for failing "to examine, say, the Trump administration's ties to Russia or its many conflicts of interest" while examining "Sid the Science Kid." He has written to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asking about "a sole source award to the Jim Henson Company for \$806,000 to feature Sid the Science Kid in an educational program about" the Zika virus. Milbank mocks his concern and says he should be concerned about matters in the Trump Administration, specifically National Security Adviser Flynn and White House Counselor Conway.

WPOST: PLAN FOR POSTAL SERVICE IS "BARE MINIMUM NECESSARY." The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) in an editorial on a "plan to fix" the US Postal Service by a "penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare." The Post calls it "the bare, bare minimum necessary" to keep the service going. The Post says that other matters that should be addressed are collective bargaining, and Saturday delivery, but that the current plan will at least prevent "collapse."

BROOKS SEES GERALD FORD AS MODEL RESPONSE TO TRUMP. David Brooks writes in his column in the [New York Times](#) (2/14, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), that the Trump Administration may pose a threat of "repressive kleptocracy" in which case, "Dietrich Bonhoeffer is the model for the resistance," by which he means vigorous street protests. But, says Brooks, the Trump Administration may lead to "a vicious muck of tweet and countertweet, scandal and pseudoscandal, partisan attack and counterattack." In that case, "St. Benedict is the model for resistance," by which he means focusing on state and local government. Another possibility, says Brook, is that Trump will lead to "incompetence and anarchy." Brooks thinks this is the most likely and that the model is Gerald Ford, "a decent, modest, experienced public servant."

CANADIAN SCIENTIST URGES US SCIENTISTS TO "SPEAK OUT" AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION. Wendy Palen, associate professor of biology at Simon Fraser University, writes in the [New York Times](#) (2/14, Palen, Subscription Publication, 13.9M), on the state of science in the Trump Administration, which she says is "ominous" alleging that scientists "have been hit with gag orders" while there may also be "slashing research budgets and gutting funding." She says that there was "a similar assault on science" in Canada under Prime Minister Stephen Harper. She urges scientists to organize and "speak out" against the Administration.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "In Peril At Oroville Dam, A Parable On Infrastructure." The [New York Times](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorializes that the Lake Oroville dam emergency is "the latest wake-up call" that American infrastructure is crumbling from lack of necessary repairs. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates the cost of repairing the country's dams, whose average age is 52, at \$21 billion. The Times writes that President Trump's proposal to fund \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending with investor tax credits is not a sound strategy for keeping public works safe despite its likely profitability for developers.

"The Latest Voter-Fraud Lie." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) criticizes senior White House adviser Stephen Miller for asserting that Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud in New Hampshire are accurate. The Times says, "Baseless claims about 'widespread' voter fraud have become so frequent, and so shameless, that it's tempting to succumb to the fatigue of fighting them and laugh them off. Under President

Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who became famous by prosecuting bogus voter-fraud cases in Alabama, that would be a big mistake.”

“A New Beginning For Israel And The United States.” The [New York Times](#) (2/14, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) in an editorial calls it a “fair bet” that the meeting between President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “will feature big smiles and reassuring words.” Yet, despite “personal chemistry,” the Times says the US national interest means that “there are likely to be rough patches” in the relationship with Israel. The Times says Trump’s reported decision to name Jared Kushner to be “special envoy” is “a powerful signal” but means the President’s initiative would depend on “someone who also has no experience in...Middle East peacemaking.” Still, the Times thinks the “moment seems riper” for progress from the outside, and hopes Trump “can confound the skeptics, including ourselves, and pull it off.”

WASHINGTON POST. “The United States Needs A New Strategy For North Korea.” A [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) editorial argues that President Trump “refrained from a rash response of the kind he delivered in January” when the North conducted a similar missile test, and “wisely emphasized the United States’ support for Japan while standing alongside Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.” Now, the Post argues, Trump “needs to focus on creating a strategy to deal with North Korea,” which it says should include the use of “sticks — such as sanctions and deploying missile defenses in South Korea — as well as carrots to end the North Korean threat.”

“The Postal Service Needs More Than A Band-Aid.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) in an editorial on a “plan to fix” the US Postal Service by a “penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare.” The Post calls it “the bare, bare minimum necessary” to keep the service going. The Post says that other matters that should be addressed are collective bargaining, and Saturday delivery, but that the current plan will at least prevent “collapse.”

“Diversity Is On Trial At A Virginia High School.” A [Washington Post](#) (2/13, 11.43M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Andy Puzder’s Grilling.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) defends Labor Secretary-designate Puzder, saying that the charges against him are exaggerated or false and come from disgruntled workers, and that Puzder is a solid choice to dismantle anti-business Obama Administration labor policies.

“Eavesdropping On Michael Flynn.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) asks in an editorial if intelligence services had authority to listen in on now former National Security Adviser Flynn’s calls, and if so, why.

“White House Disruption.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/13, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) says in an editorial that many of the questions surrounding White House Chief of Staff Priebus’ authority and his possible departure from the Administration are due to President Trump’s reluctance to let Priebus actually manage the White House staff. Though Trump prefers competing circles of power and viewpoints, the Journal says this approach makes it all but impossible for the White House to speak with one voice and proceed effectively on policy.

The Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Eyes New Tactic To Press China](#)

[Trump “Evaluates” Flynn’s Fate](#)

[The Rise And Fall Of A K Street Renegade](#)

[Disney Severs Ties With Top YouTube Star PewDiePie](#)

New York Times:

[Michael Flynn Resigns As National Security Adviser](#)
[Case Of Captive In Yemen Could Test Trump's Guantánamo Pledge](#)
[From Trump's Mar-a-Lago To Facebook, A National Security Crisis In The Open](#)
[Angry Town Hall Meetings On Health Care Law, And Few Answers](#)
[In Shadow Of California Dam, Water Turns From Wish To Woe](#)

Washington Post:

[White House Was Warned On Flynn](#)
[In Trump Administration, Tumult Becoming Norm](#)
[Dinner, With A Side Of Security Crisis](#)
[Romancing The \(Lab-Grown\) Stone](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Eases Canadian Fears Of US Trade Shake-Up](#)
[EU Gears Up For WTO Challenge To US Border Tax](#)
[Famine Fears Rise As Drought Crisis Hits Somalia](#)
[Japan Accepted 28 Refugees In 2016](#)

Washington Times:

[Gorsuch Offers Schumer No Hints On Judicial Philosophy](#)
[Homeland Security Captures 680 Illegals In First Major Raids Of Trump Era](#)
[California Spent On High-Speed Rail And Illegal Immigrants, But Ignored Oroville Dam](#)
[Gun Rights Advocates In California Brace For Long Battle Over Restrictions](#)
['Never Chelsea' Movement Grows Among Liberal Activists](#)
[U.S. Admiral's Visit To Thailand Shows Signs Of Trump's New Approach](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Oroville Dam Emergency; Flynn Controversy; Canadian Prime Minister Visit; Immigrant Deportations; Severe Weather; Mobile Unlimited Data; Chicago Shooting Suspect Manhunt; Sandusky Arrest; Health-Back Pain; Dog Show.

CBS: Flynn Controversy; Security-Mar-a-Largo Dinner; Canadian Prime Minister Visit; Refugees Going To Canada; Oroville Dam Emergency; Climate Change; Ford Exhaust Fumes; Sandusky Arrest; Health-Back Pain; National Zoo Panda.

NBC: Oroville Dam Emergency; Flynn Controversy; Security-Mar-a-Largo Dinner; Severe Weather; Sandusky Arrest; Drug Overdose; Mobile Unlimited Data; Health-Back Pain; Grammy Award; Playboy Magazine; Smartest Sibling; Community Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Oroville Dam Emergency – 8 minutes, 55 seconds
Flynn Controversy – 8 minutes, 45 seconds
Health-Back Pain – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Security-Mar-a-Largo Dinner – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Mobile Unlimited Data – 3 minutes, 30 seconds
Canadian Prime Minister Visit – 3 minutes, 30 seconds
Severe Weather – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Sandusky Arrest – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Flynn Resignation; Cabinet Confirmation; Oroville Dam Emergency.

CBS: Flynn Resignation; Cabinet Confirmation; Immigrant Deportations; Oroville Dam Emergency.

FOX: Cabinet Confirmation; President Trump-Retailer Meeting; North Korea Missile Test; Flynn Controversy; Oroville Dam Emergency; Sandusky Arrest; Grammy Awards; Flynn Resignation.

NPR: Flynn Resignation; Cabinet Confirmation; Immigrant Deportations; Canadian Prime Minister Visit; Vatican Reform; Women's College Basket Ball.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responding to the North Korean missile test at a dinner table at Mar-a-Lago] "You know, if you're going to hold a classified meeting in a public place, you do it somewhere where there aren't any people. Like a RadioShack, for instance."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Am I the only one who gets nervous every time [Trump] meets a new world leader? It's like introducing a heavily tattooed girlfriend to your parents."

Stephen Colbert: "But you know who did not win a Grammy last night? Donald Trump. Yeah. Rigged. Totally rigged."

Stephen Colbert: "President Trump and Prime Minister Abe were eating their dinners when they receive news that North Korea had test launched a ballistic missile. This is a provocation by a rogue nuclear state. So President Trump immediately retreated to a secure location where he could be briefed on the details. I'm just kidding."

Stephen Colbert: "That's right. Trump team handled an international crisis like teens an after-prom party looking at Derek's Instagram."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to White House Senior Policy Adviser Stephen Miller's comment that the border wall will pay for itself] "It will pay for itself? I thought Mexico was paying for it. Now Trump's going to make the wall pay for the wall?"

James Corden: "For the first time in the Trump presidency, Kim Jong-Un and North Korea conducted one of their ballistic missile tests. This is going to be tough for Donald Trump to figure out his response, especially because he can only use 140 characters."

James Corden: "It's weird to have Donald Trump facing off against Kim Jong-Un. They're basically the same person. Like, I bet Trump wants to call Kim Jong-Un and say, 'We understand you're testing nuclear missiles, and I want to say, can I come watch? Because they don't let me do that here!'"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Trump nodding at Shinzo Abe's speech without translator earpiece] "To the best of [Trump advisers'] knowledge, he does not speak Japanese." How do Trump's advisers not know what languages he speaks? It's like them going around saying, 'Well, he said he doesn't speak Japanese, but he also said he would release his tax returns.'"

Trevor Noah: "Now Trump responded to North Korea after this. But part of me goes, thank God Shinzo Abe was there. Because reportedly [Trump] didn't want to say anything about it. Shinzo was like, 'No, we are leaders. We have to speak.' Like Trump was basically cheating off the smart Asian kid, that's what he was doing."

Jimmy Fallon: "During his performance with A Tribe Called Quest, Busta Rhymes referred to President Trump as 'President Agent Orange.' And the Secret Service said, 'Great. Now he needs a new code name.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today held a press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Just look at those two. It looks like a debate between a snowboarding instructor and a ghost that drowned."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today spoke on the phone with the Presidents of Nigeria and South Africa, and I just pray that before those calls, someone told him how to pronounce Nigeria."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump will reportedly have lunch with Chris Christie tomorrow. 'Just a salad please,' said Christie, when asked if there was anything on the menu he didn't want."

Seth Meyers: "Trump spent the weekend with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, and of course the Trump-Abe summit began on Friday, with his now infamous Oval Office handshake. ...Was he trying to shake his hand or stop him from leaving? 'Don't let go. When you let go, they ask me questions.'"

Seth Meyers: "So either Flynn straight-up lied to Mike Pence, or Mike Pence lied to us. But of course, to Mike Pence, a lie is just a truth that hasn't gone through conversion therapy yet."

Seth Meyers: "So the President of the United States thinks thousands of people were bused in from Massachusetts, to illegally vote in New Hampshire? I'm from New Hampshire, and I can tell you we'd notice if thousands of people from Massachusetts showed up on buses. That's the invasion we're most afraid of."

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Subject:	FW: ACF Congressional Daily News - March 22, 2019
Date:	2019/03/22 11:30:28
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From: Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF) <cynthia.davis@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:43 AM
To: Davis, Ms. Cynthia (ACF) <cynthia.davis@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Congressional Daily News - March 22, 2019

**Administration for Children and Families
Office of Legislative Affairs and Budget**

ACF Congressional Daily News for Friday, March 22, 2019

House and Senate Floor Activity

The Senate and House will reconvene on March 26.

OLAB Hearing Coverage

On March 26, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services will hold a hearing on "[Strengthening Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)." For a hearing summary, please contact OLAB's [Becky Zornick](#).

On March 26, the House Budget Committee will hold a hearing on the "[Fiscal Year 2020 HHS Budget](#)." Deputy Secretary Hargan will testify. For a hearing summary, please contact OLAB's [Becky Zornick](#).

On March 26, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations will hold a hearing on "The Department of Homeland Security's Family Separation Policy: Perspectives from the Border." For a hearing summary, please contact OLAB's [Abby Scott](#).

Congressional Press Releases Related to ACF

CSBG

[Fudge, McCollum, Thompson, Stefanik Introduce H.R. 1695, the Community Services Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2019](#) – Rep. Fudge (D-OH)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

[Duckworth Hosts Roundtable with Advocates in Chicago to Discuss Importance of Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) Reauthorization](#) – Sen. Duckworth (D-IL)

FOSTER CARE

[Lewis, Davis Seek Info on HHS Waiver to Permit Discrimination Against Prospective Foster Parents](#) – Rep. Lewis (D-GA)

LIHEAP

[New England Congressional Delegation Condemns LIHEAP Cuts](#) – Reps. Langevin (D-RI) and Welch (D-VT)

Congressional Daily News

Bloomberg Government and CQ report on congressional activity below.

What to Watch After Recess

By Zachary Sherwood | March 22, 2019 8:02AM ET

House Democrats will continue to pressure President Donald Trump over his emergency declaration for a southern border wall as lawmakers return from a weeklong break on Monday, while Senate Republicans will seek to force Democrats to say where they stand on the "Green New Deal" initiative.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) said the House plans to vote Tuesday on overriding Trump's veto of the resolution (H. J. Res. 46) that would end his emergency declaration. "House Republicans will have to choose between their partisan hypocrisy and their sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution," Pelosi said in a statement.

The House didn't pass the resolution with a two-thirds majority needed to override a veto, so Trump's veto is likely to stand.

Also on the House floor are measures covering the gender pay gap, domestic violence, internet regulation, and a Senate-passed war powers resolution (S. J. Res. 7) that would end U.S. involvement in Yemen.

Pelosi said last week that the House plans to consider legislation restoring Obama-era net neutrality rules soon after the chamber reconvenes. The measure (H.R. 1644), unveiled by Democratic leaders earlier this month, has no support from top Republican lawmakers and has little chance of Senate passage.

A Democratic bill to combat pay discrimination is also headed to the floor, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said in a statement issued Monday.

Legislation to reauthorize a domestic violence program could be on the floor before Congress breaks again in mid-April. The measure (H.R. 1585) would reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, which lawmakers had allowed to lapse while they revised the old law. The legislation would authorize Justice Department grant programs intended to prevent sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and other crimes against women.

Disaster Aid: Lawmakers are also moving to finish work on a disaster aid measure, aiming to pass a proposal that has been delayed amid disagreements over relief for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.

McConnell filed for cloture on the measure (H.R. 268) on March 14. Negotiators are still debating several issues relating to Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. While senators support providing \$600 million for nutritional assistance to Puerto Rico, they haven't agreed to several measures House Democrats are pushing for that were included in a House-passed disaster aid package, Sen. David Perdue (R-Ga.) said.

Lawmakers Resist Humanitarian, Refugee Aid Changes

March 21, 2019 – 4:09 p.m. By Rachel Oswald, CQ

Democratic and Republican lawmakers say they are determined to block a White House budget proposal that would gut the State Department's refugee operations and slash overall humanitarian aid levels.

President Donald Trump's 2020 budget request proposes consolidating three separate humanitarian assistance accounts operated by the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development. The new umbrella account would be managed by USAID and, in theory, have more flexibility to respond to rapidly evolving global crises.

But the White House proposal would not only cut funding but reshape humanitarian assistance, particularly in how it affects refugees.

While longtime humanitarian assistance practitioners say the proposal has some merits, they do not trust the Trump administration's ultimate intentions and thus oppose it. That's because the White House is seeking to cut the overall humanitarian funding for fiscal 2020 — from the fiscal 2019 enacted levels of roughly \$9.5 billion to just under \$6 billion, which critics say would eviscerate dedicated refugee programs. The State Department's refugee activities have been a longtime target of senior White House adviser Stephen Miller.

"I'm not even sure I'm going to read the president's State Department budget. It's a total non-starter," Sen. Christopher S. Murphy, D-Conn., a member of the Appropriations State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee, said last week. "I'm not sure [Sen.] Lindsey Graham is even going to read it. We all get it. He [Trump] hates the State Department. He hates humanitarian programs. . . Congress doesn't agree and so we're going to go our own way."

Indeed, Graham, the cardinal of the State-Foreign Operations Committee, was equally dismissive of the White House proposal, as have been other Republicans.

"It will meet the same fate it did last time," the South Carolina Republican told CQ, referring to how he disregarded the administration's previous two budget requests to make deep cuts in

foreign aid spending. "The State Department-150 account [the international affairs account], we will not follow their advice."

The administration's budget request proposes taking the vast majority of the budget from State's Migration and Refugee Assistance account and merging it with two USAID accounts: Food for Peace and International Disaster Assistance, which provides humanitarian relief following natural disasters and man-made conflicts.

The new consolidated account would be called International Humanitarian Assistance and would "support all aspects of humanitarian assistance, including shelter, protection, emergency health and nutrition, the provision of safe drinking water, livelihoods supports, emergency food interventions, rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction, and transition to development assistance programs," according to State's fiscal 2020 congressional budget justification.

"The request restructures our overseas humanitarian programming to enable the United States to respond seamlessly to evolving humanitarian needs," said Eric Ueland, who heads State's Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance, at a press briefing last week.

Additionally, the new IHA account would be used to support U.S. participation in a number of international humanitarian organizations such as the U.N. World Food Program and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Refugee Concerns Take Center Stage

Under the budget proposal, the State's refugee assistance account, which is managed by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, would be left with just \$365 million, down from \$3.4 billion in fiscal 2019 funding. The remaining money would be used for domestic refugee resettlement activities, which Miller has repeatedly targeted.

"PRM's role will continue when it comes to significant refugee assistance work, as well as work they do in resettling migrants from Israel," Ueland said, adding that the changes would provide the Trump administration with a political and diplomatic strategy for responding to global refugee issues.

Those reassurances did not convince members of the humanitarian aid community.

"Beyond the fact that it is this mischievous pretext for slashing humanitarian assistance, you also kind of wantonly jettison enormous capability and expertise that exists in the department of State and that has served American interests for decades," said Eric Schwartz, a former assistant secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration in the Obama administration.

The U.S. government's expertise around international laws that protect refugees and the international organizations that assist them —such as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the Red Cross — are under State, specifically within the PRM Bureau, according to Schwartz, now the president of Refugees International.

"If you remove all of the programming from PRM, you lose that expertise for no good reason," said Schwartz. "Under this ridiculous approach, PRM and its important influence on humanitarian policies and the State Department's critical influence on humanitarian policies will wither away. That's why it's a stupid idea."

Added Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., another member of the Appropriations State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee: "Trying to address the president's perceptions about the border and asylum and refugees by further retreating from our commitment to being a country that welcomes those with legitimate claims for asylum and refuge strikes me as going in exactly the wrong direction."

While it's a good idea to consolidate the humanitarian assistance accounts, it will likely come to nothing because of the high degree of Capitol Hill distrust toward the Trump administration when it comes to foreign aid, said Jeremy Konyndyk, who led USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance under the Obama administration.

"I think there is value in acknowledging that the current architecture for humanitarian assistance in the U.S. government is out-of-date," he told CQ.

Konyndyk, now a senior policy fellow at the liberal Center for Global Development, in a December proposal called for applying the Goldwater-Nichols changes to U.S. humanitarian assistance operations. That 1986 law streamlined and unified the military chain of command so that strategic policy decisions came from Washington and tactical operation decisions were left to field commanders. Konyndyk envisions something similar happening to how the U.S. foreign policy agencies make decisions on how, when and who receives food, medicine, shelter and other critical humanitarian assistance.

"I think there is the kernel of a good idea here [in the budget proposal] but its viability, I think, really depends on it not being seen as a backdoor attempt to cut the humanitarian aid budget and it not being seen as a backdoor attempt to gut U.S. leadership on refugee issues," he said. "As it's presently proposed, it would do both."

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Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 2:34 PM
To: ACF - All ACF Staff <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Media Clips: April 9, 2019

April 9, 2019

Excerpts from ACF topics in the Media

Children, Youth & Families | Opioids | Article

As drug crises surge, babies enter foster care at higher rate (featuring ACF)

Teresa Wiltz • Stateline/Pew Charitable Trust • District of Columbia

April 9, 2019

In fiscal year 2017, infants and toddlers under the age of 3 entered foster care at a rate of 6.6 per 1,000, more than twice the 2.8 rate of children ages 4 to 17. Source: Child Trends, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System at the U.S. Children's Bureau.

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Article

KY taking steps to improve foster care system

Matthew DeVault • WFIE • Kentucky

April 8, 2019

Kentucky is taking steps to improve the state's foster care system. The Citizen Foster Care Review Boards hosted a forum in Owensboro. It's one of several they're putting on around the commonwealth. State leaders are hoping you'll tell them your concerns about the foster system, and get some ideas on how to fix it.

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Article

Foster care improving in Arkansas

Nkiruka Azuka • KNWA • Arkansas

April 8, 2019

New data by the Annie E. Casey Foundation states from 2007-2017, Arkansas placed more kids in family home settings over shelters or group homes.

Advocates say this is a positive thing. "Those kids end up not having as good outcomes as kids who have connections to families," said Laura Kellams with the Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. The study also shows kids over 13 and minority children are more likely to end up in group settings, which Kellams said is a national trend.

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Article

Federal funds can now be used to help Virginia families before kids are put in foster care (featuring ACF)

Sara McCloskey • WRIC • Virginia

April 8, 2019

State officials are working on ways to implement new strategies to help children at risk of being put into foster homes by giving tools to their families to prevent it from happening. Governor Ralph Northam signed into law SB1679 and HB2014, which puts Virginia in line with the federal Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Under the law, federal money can go towards various services before a child is placed with a foster family. Va. Dept. of Social Services officials say early intervention with these services can reduce the number of children put in foster care.

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Article

DSS offers guide in preventing child abuse (featuring ACF)

News Team • Asheboro Courier-Tribune • North Carolina

April 9, 2019

In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention and over 30 national prevention partners have created the "2019 Prevention Resource Guide: Strong and Thriving Families."

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Article

State announces actions following news of child deaths

News Team • Associated Press • Maine

April 8, 2019

Maine's health and human services agency says it's launching a safe sleeping educational campaign and offering extra home visits in light of the deaths of 26 children since 2017. Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew announced Monday the agency seeks to prevent tragedies through immediate steps such as seeking federal funding to help mothers amid the opioid epidemic.

[Read the full story](#)

Children, Youth & Families | Opinion

A Faustian bargain against Catholic adoption agencies

Mike Manno • Wanderer • Minnesota

April 8, 2019

Violations of the agreement by any agency, such as St. Vincent, would cause the agency to effectively be put out of business, such as in the case reported here in January involving New Hope Family Services, which was told by New York officials that it must abandon its faith-based policies or cease operations. The settlement agreement that Nessel and the ACLU have adopted is seven single-spaced pages that reads more like a legislative act than a settlement of a claim. It not only reads like a legislative act, the parties intended it to serve as a judicially adopted amendment to the governing state law and to be enforced accordingly.

[Read the full story](#)

Child Care | Opinion

Is expanding parochial pre-K an answer to Vermont's child care crunch?

Christina Guessferd • WCAX • Vermont

April 8, 2019

But are the inquiries a reflection of higher demand for Catholic school education or Vermont's child care crunch? School officials say once kids begin in pre-K, the expectation is that they're going to stay and a majority do. They say five of six pre-K kids went on to the kindergarten program in 2016, six of eight did in 2017 and 2018, and about seven of nine are expected to do so this upcoming school year.

[Read the full story](#)

Child Care | Opinion

It's a constant hustle.' 2020 brings renewed attention to US child care woes

Sara Miller Llana • Christian Science Monitor • Massachusetts

April 8, 2019

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Elizabeth Warren has made a federally-funded network of affordable child care and early education for all a major policy plank, while others, like Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, are co-sponsors of the Child Care for Working Families Act. And it's a discussion well underway in many American cities, including Ms. Hunter's. The city of Pittsburgh is making a push for universal pre-K, joining others in the state and across the country, including in Washington, D.C.; New York City, and the state of Oklahoma.

[Read the full story](#)

Head Start | Article

Bitterroot, Missoula kids getting more 'Early Head Start' (featuring ACF)

Steve Fullerton • KLYQ • Montana

April 8, 2019

Due to a recently announced grant, Ravalli Head Start will be able to more than double the number of children at their Hamilton and Missoula centers. Executive Director John Filz said the federal Head Start Office's Expansion and Child Care Partnership funding totals over \$758,000 for operations, remodeling and start-up costs. The local Early Head Start application was in the top 10 percent for funding in the competitive grant. He said the Ravalli and Missoula County centers will be able to have 48 students instead of the current 32. The additional partnerships with local child care providers will be supplemented to meet federal Early Head Start requirements.

[Read the full story](#)

Trafficking | Opinion

Texas is getting serious about stopping sex trafficking, but we need more resources

Bruce Kellison and Melissa I.M. Torres • Dallas Morning News • Texas

April 9, 2019

Headlines show that authorities are getting serious about stopping sex trafficking. But more needs to be done to protect the most vulnerable in Texas from being exploited. As a state, we need to adjust the way we address victims who can be resistant to receiving some services. New research on human trafficking extends much of what we already know to be true about child commercial sexual exploitation: Traffickers exploit the most vulnerable young people every day in our neighborhoods far more commonly than at major events. The most at-risk minors and youths include those with a history of child abuse or maltreatment, those who have run away from home or who are homeless, those who have extreme economic need, or a combination of these factors. Where there is vulnerability, there will be exploitation. What differs among regions in Texas, however, are the services available. We must strengthen the safety net for at-risk youths. Prevention programs should focus on healthy relationship education and training for youths, because almost every instance of sex trafficking starts with a relationship gone wrong, whether it be family, romantic or confidant. We also must prevent trafficking from its starting point. Early intervention should focus on offering services that are sensitive to the needs of survivors of violence and abuse who have faced many types of trauma, and it should include their family in any assistance that navigates their intersecting needs.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Dallas, Houston considered for new migrant shelters as monthly apprehensions expected to reach 100,000 (featuring ACF)

Obed Manuel and Alfredo Corchado • Dallas Morning News • Texas

April 8, 2019

Thousands of asylum-seeking children could be headed to Dallas as the federal government looks to relieve pressure on a bloated immigration system and overwhelmed nonprofit shelters along the U.S.-Mexico border. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has contacted Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins to gauge the county's willingness and ability to house some migrants as shelters along the border become overwhelmed by the number of asylum seekers vying to stay in the U.S. Jenkins said his office received a letter from HHS Regional Director Fred Schuster, informing him that Dallas was being

scouted as a possible shelter location. A HHS spokesperson confirmed that the Office of Refugee Resettlement in HHS' Administration for Children and Families is assessing vacant properties in Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston for "potential future use as state-licensed permanent shelter locations for unaccompanied alien children." Other cities being looked at are Phoenix, Arizona and Atlanta, Georgia. HHS is considering adding shelters to avoid using temporary shelters, like the Tornillo tent city.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Cities across US seek new shelter locations as asylum-seekers could hit 150,000: report (featuring ACF)

Bradford Betz • Fox News • New York

April 9, 2019

Major cities across the U.S. are bracing themselves to accommodate a possible surge of more than 150,000 asylum seekers in the coming months. The expected surge from mostly El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, comes amid an uptick in apprehensions last month that put a strain on border patrol and nonprofit shelters near the U.S.-Mexico border. To relieve these shelters, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has been scouting major cities from Phoenix to Atlanta as potential locations to build these shelters, the Dallas Morning News reported. Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said he had informed HHS Regional Director Fred Schuster that Dallas is "ready, willing and able to help out these kids."

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

HHS considering moving migrant children to new shelters in Dallas, Atlanta: report (featuring ACF)

Michael Burke • Hill • District of Columbia

April 8, 2019

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is reportedly considering moving migrant children to new shelters in cities including Dallas and Atlanta in response to overcrowded shelters that are currently housing migrants. The Dallas Morning News reported Monday that HHS is looking at vacant properties in several cities in Texas, including Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston. The agency is also looking at Phoenix and Atlanta, the newspaper reported. A spokesperson with HHS told the newspaper that the Texas cities are being considered for "potential future use as state-licensed permanent shelter locations for unaccompanied" migrant children.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

AZ Rep. Grijalva affirms urgency over minors at border

Matt Kling • KJZZ/Fronteras • Arizona

April 8, 2019

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar said that more unaccompanied minors are attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. He said as many as 300-350 minors a day are crossing and referred to HHS. He also said there aren't any sustainable solutions to curb the issue. Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva said Azar should be listened to and Congress should be taking more action to solve the issue. "There's an urgency here and the American people have got to see that we're looking for solutions," Grijalva said Saturday on CNN. "My party in particular in the House of Representatives, I think that's the business we should be concentrating on." Grijalva suggested implementing regional processing centers in some countries, including Guatemala and Honduras. He said President Obama proposed opening such centers but President Trump rejected the idea.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Did Trump administration break law by blocking Florida reps from entering migrant shelter? (featuring ACF)

Monique Madan • Miami Herald • Florida

April 8, 2019

Three Florida congresswomen were sent home Monday after attempting to inspect the Homestead child detention center. On Wednesday, U.S. Reps. Donna Shalala, Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, South Florida's three Democratic representatives, had requested to visit the shelter on Monday. They wanted to inspect the facility, which houses about 2,000 unaccompanied migrant children, after the government announced last week it would expand the center to detain as many as 3,200 children. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the privately run facility, said it needed two weeks' notice to allow lawmakers into the facility and refused them entry, citing its 2015 policy. The congresswomen, however, called the agency's denial "illegal," citing recently passed legislation, signed by President Donald Trump, that prohibits HHS from denying lawmakers from entering a facility to conduct oversight.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

City denies zoning for company to house undocumented immigrant children in Philadelphia

Jeff Gammage • Philadelphia Inquirer • Pennsylvania

April 8, 2019

City zoning officials have denied an appeal by an Arizona-based youth-services agency that wants to house 60 undocumented immigrant children in North Philadelphia, throwing the for-profit company's plans into doubt. A spokesperson for VisionQuest said the agency would comment on the decision shortly. The children, ages 12 to 17, are among thousands of "unaccompanied minors" who turned up alone at the nation's southern border, fleeing violence and poverty in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. The city confirmed on Monday that the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which hears and decides appeals on zoning matters, had rejected the agency's contention that its proposed use of the property was allowed under current regulations. VisionQuest's next move could be a lawsuit in the Court of Common Pleas. Immigrant advocates, union leaders and some city officials have strongly spoken against the plan, saying that the sanctuary city of Philadelphia should not allow migrant children to be held within its borders.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Trump aide Stephen Miller 'going to clean house' as immigration policy hardens

Molly O'Toole, Noah Bierman and Eki Stokols • Los Angeles Times • California

April 8, 2019

Shortly before ousting Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, President Trump said he'll take an even "tougher" tack on border policies that for more than two years, by his own measure, have failed to deter immigration. Some fear that may include a return of the reviled family separations that Trump was forced to back away from last year, as well as more firings. Resuming family separations may also be tricky since Trump signed an executive order to stop the practice and spoke out publicly against separations — and a federal judge issued a nationwide injunction to block the practice, ordering the government to reunite families.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

What's next for immigration as Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen leaves

John Burnett • National Public Radio • District of Columbia

April 9, 2019

Some hardliners are saying a version of family separation remains under consideration at the White House. Overall, the endgame is deterrence - convince Central Americans it's just no longer a good idea to cross the border. Back in October, DHS first floated this idea. And they've tried to rebrand it. A family that crosses the border unlawfully would be given a binary choice. They could decide if they want to give their child up, let the government put them in a youth shelter, or they could agree to be detained indefinitely together, possibly in a tent city. But this is really sort of a nuclear option. And it's so controversial, even among Trump boosters. They're not sure they want the administration to go there.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Trump purge signals even fiercer immigration agenda

Michael D. Shear, Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Maggie Haberman • New York Times • New York

April 8, 2019

President Trump's purge of the nation's top homeland security officials is a sign that he is preparing to unleash an even fiercer assault on immigration, including a possible return of his controversial decision last summer to separate migrant children from their parents, current and former administration officials said Monday. Stephen Miller, the architect of Mr. Trump's immigration agenda and one of the president's closest advisers in the White House, has been an advocate for a modified version of the family separation policy known as "binary choice." Under a binary choice policy, which is highly controversial, migrant parents would be given a choice of whether to voluntarily allow their children to be separated from them, or to waive their child's humanitarian protections so the family can be detained together, indefinitely, in jail-like conditions. Immigration advocates have said the idea is inhumane and would be found illegal by courts.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Article

Trump White House plots amped-up immigration crackdown

Ted Hesson, Anita Kumar and Nancy Cook • Politico • District of Columbia

April 8, 2019

President Donald Trump's dramatic purge of Homeland Security leaders is about more than personnel: It helps clear the way for him to take controversial new steps to curb illegal immigration, including an updated version of his

furiously criticized family separation policy. Leading the new charge is Trump's top White House immigration aide Stephen Miller, who wants tent cities to house migrants on the border and is pressing to extend the amount of time U.S. immigration officials can detain migrant children beyond the current 20-day limit imposed by a federal judge. Miller wants to force migrant parents arrested at the border to choose between splitting apart from their children or remaining together indefinitely in detention while awaiting court proceedings, according to five people familiar with the plans. So far, the Trump administration's immigration policies haven't deterred Central American families from trekking north — and they've faced trouble in U.S. courts.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Interview Transcript

Trump gearing up for even more hard line immigration policy (Audio)

Patsy Widakuswara • Voice of America • District of Columbia

April 9, 2019

President Donald Trump is gearing up for an even tougher hard line immigration policy, after abruptly dismissing his Homeland Security Secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen Sunday. U.S. officials say the immigration crisis has worsened in recent weeks, and Trump is reportedly considering reinstating the hugely unpopular policy of separating migrant children from their families.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Analysis

Trump reportedly wants to revive one of his least-popular policy proposals: Family separation

Philip Bump • Washington Post • District of Columbia

April 8, 2019

In the wake of the firing of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Sunday, NBC News reported her relationship with President Trump became tense in part because of one specific issue: Trump's support for reinstating a policy of separating children from their families when arriving at the U.S. border with Mexico. "A senior administration official said it seems Trump is convinced that family separation has been the most effective policy at deterring large numbers of asylum seekers," NBC's Julia Ainsley and Geoff Bennett report. It is in keeping with other reporting, including from The Washington Post, suggesting Trump wanted to take a harder line on the increase in migrants arriving at the border in recent months. It is not clear the extent to which the separation policy actually contributed to deterring families from arriving at the border, though, according to multiple administration officials, that was explicitly one of the points

of the program. What is clear, though, is the policy of pulling apart families at the border is one of the least popular Trump has proposed during his presidency. In June of last year there were several polls demonstrating how unpopular the policy was — even, relatively speaking, among Republicans.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Opinion

Will Trump rip kids from parents at the border (again)? (featuring ACF)

EJ Montini • Arizona Republic • Arizona

April 9, 2019

The idea that President Donald Trump would even think about reinstating a policy of separating children from their parents at the border should make you sick. It was cruel. It was a disaster. It was a black mark on everything we stand for. And it appears, again, to be on the table. Kirstjen Nielsen was forced out of her position as secretary of homeland security and other top-level appointees, and long-time civil servants from the department are apparently being purged because, the president is reported to have said, “We want to go in a tougher direction.” Several news operations are now reporting that the White House is considering a move to go back to ripping children from their parents, a policy that didn’t hold up in court and most likely would not hold up again. If senior officials are talking about it, as news reports indicate, it’s possible the administration is floating the possibility on purpose to see what the public reaction might be. And with the president dumping those who may have disagreed with separating families and did not want to reinstitute the practice, there isn’t much chance the situation would improve under a resumption of the policy. Just the opposite. That’s not, as Trump said, “going in a tougher direction.” That’s going to hell.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Opinion

10 ways to resolve the border crisis (featuring ACF)

Ali Noorani • Hill • District of Columbia

April 8, 2019

There is a growing humanitarian and security challenge at our southern border with Mexico. An unprecedented number of families are risking their safety to reach our country. The numbers are daunting: since the start of 2019, an increasing number of Central American migrants have arrived. In February alone, more than 76,000 migrants reached the U.S.-Mexico border without authorization, double the figure from February 2018. To that end, there are a number of important steps needed to address the rising number of migrants

coming to the southern border from Central America. These 10 steps include shorter-term approaches to better manage and process those who are arriving, and longer-term approaches which get at the root causes behind why people are leaving Central America in the first place.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Opinion

Nielsen resignation doesn't change fact child sexual abuse at border is real emergency

Lyndon Haviland • USA Today • Virginia

April 9, 2019

What continues to be lost in the national conversation on illegal immigration is the crisis involving the abuse of children while in U.S. "care" at the Mexico boundary. Over 2,700 children were separated from their families near the border in 2018, and at least 200 of them remain separated today as part of President Trump's border policy. Worse, thousands of kids have been, and continue to be, subjected to sexual abuse while they've been detained by U.S. authorities.

[Read the full story](#)

Unaccompanied Alien Children | Editorial

Kirstjen Nielsen's season of cruelty and futility

Editorial Board • Washington Post • District of Columbia

April 8, 2019

On Friday, two days before Mr. Trump gave Ms. Nielsen her notice, the administration filed court documents aimed at cleaning up this mess. In light of evidence that agencies under her command may have broken up thousands more families than was previously understood — many of them before headlines about family separation seized the national agenda last summer — the government said it would take at least a year, and possibly two, to figure out which children, and how many, remain apart from their parents. Mr. Trump, incensed at the surge of unaccompanied minors and families who have flooded the border in recent months, legally seeking asylum, now broadcasts his intention to get "tougher." No doubt, he seeks a successor to Ms. Nielsen who will satisfy the same criterion, by pursuing policies unlikely to withstand legal and constitutional challenges. The real problem at America's borders isn't insufficient toughness. It's a broken immigration system that Congress, entrenched in warring ideological camps, has been unwilling to fix. And it's a president, convinced that hard-line immigration rhetoric and policies are key to his political brand, who is more intent on riling up his base than forging a workable solution.

[Read the full story](#)

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Sent Date:	2019/04/09 15:18:46
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Message Flags:	Unread

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To:	(b)(6)
CC:	Urbanowicz, Peter (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c2582ea190224a01b152935657ba9ff7-Urbonowicz,>; Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0280b227911b40b6b30a81b8574ede6b-Stecker, Ju>
Subject:	Fwd: Pool report #3 quotes
Date:	2019/04/10 11:54:07
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Begin forwarded message:

He was asked if he's considered making Stephen Miller DHS secretary:

"Stephen is an excellent guy. He's a wonderful person. People don't know him . . . He's been with me from the beginning. He's a brilliant man."
 "And frankly there's only one person that's running it. You know who that is? It's me."

From: "White House Press Office" <info@mail.whitehouse.gov>
Subject: Pool report #3 quotes
Date: 10 April 2019 11:00
To: "Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA)" <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>

From: Joseph Morton <(b)(6)@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 10:52 AM
Subject: Pool report #3 quotes

Filling out quotes from the president's departure on the south lawn this morning. As always please check against tape/transcript.

On Mueller report:

"The Mueller report's interesting. After \$35 million with 13 - increased to 18 - angry Democrats. People that truly hated Donald Trump, truly hated Trump, they found no collusion whatsoever with Russia but I could have told you that and so could most people and so could have everybody that voted for me which was a lot of people. So after wasting all of this money and all of this time with people that were haters, people that worked on the Hillary Clinton Foundation, people that were absolutely haters of Trump, they found no collusion. What has been found during this period of time are the illegal acts of getting this whole phony investigation started and hopefully that's where people are going now. That's where people are going. And it's very interesting."

"It was an illegal investigation. It was started illegally. Everything about it was crooked. Every single thing about it. There were dirty cops. These were bad people. You look at McCabe and Comey. And you look at Lisa and Peter Strzok. These were bad people. And this was an attempted coup. This was an attempted take-down of a president. And we beat them. We beat them. So the Mueller report - when they talk about obstruction, we fight back. And you know why we fight back? Because I knew how illegal this whole thing was. It was a scam."

"What I'm most interested in is getting started, hopefully the attorney general, he mentioned it yesterday. He's doing a great job, getting started on going back to the origins of exactly where this all started. Because this was an illegal witch hunt and everybody knew it. And they knew it too and they got caught. And what they did was treason. What they did was terrible. What they did was against our Constitution and everything we stand for. So hopefully

that will happen. There is a hunger for that to happen in this country like I have never seen before, including all of the millions of people that voted for me. What they did was disgraceful. There's never been anything like it in the history of our country."

"I have not seen the Mueller report. I have not read the Mueller report. I won. No collusion, no obstruction. I won. Everybody knows I won."

"The whole thing was illegal. I have not read the Mueller report. I have not seen the Mueller report. As far as I'm concerned I don't care about the Mueller report. I've been totally exonerated. No collusion, no obstruction and I'm off to dealing with China, I'm off to dealing with North Korea. I'm off to dealing with Venezuela and all the problems in this world. I'm not worried about something that never, ever should have taken place."

On economy:

"The economy is doing very, very well. We have numbers coming from companies that are beyond expectation. The tax cuts are working very, very well."

"We're very proud of the economy. Jobs numbers are as good as we've ever had and more people are working right now than ever worked in our country before. We're doing really well."

Netanyahu:

"I'd like to congratulate Bibi Netanyahu. It looks like that race has been won by him. It may be a little early but I'm hearing he won it and won it in good fashion."

"He's a great ally and he's a friend. I'd like to congratulate him. It was a well fought out race . . . It looks like Bibi has won that race."

“The fact that Bibi won I think we’ll see some pretty good action in terms of peace. Look, everyone said and I never made it a promise but everybody said you can’t have peace in the Middle East with Israel and the Palestinians. I think we have a chance and I think we have now a better chance with Bibi having won.”

On releasing taxes:

“There is no law. As you know I got elected last time with this same issue and while I’m under audit I won’t do it. If I’m not under audit I would do it. I had no problem with it. But while I’m under audit I would not give my taxes. There’s no law whatsoever.”

“Now I will say this. I would love to give them but I’m not going to do it while I’m under audit. It’s very simple. Remember - I got elected last time, the same exact issue, with the same intensity, which wasn’t very much because frankly the people don’t care.”

“What I have done is approximately a 104-page summary, and really in great detail of assets and values. Nobody wants to go over that because it’s so good. I built a great company, one of the best companies. I have some of the greatest assets in the world. I did a good job. And now frankly I don’t care about them. I only care about the United States.”

“But I have no obligation to do that while I’m under audit and no lawyer would tell you to release your tax returns while you’re under audit.”

On border/asylum:

“The whole asylum rules, laws and regulations have been taken advantage of by people that are very bad people in many cases. These are the people running the cartels. They’re gaming the system. They have been for years. The

only difference is our economy is now so strong that more people come up. We have done a great job at the border with bad laws. It's very important that the Democrats in Congress change these loopholes. If they don't change them we're just going to be fighting."

"Now, the other thing - we've built a lot of wall. A lot of wall. It's new wall. You know when we rip down an old wall and then replace it it's called a new wall. And that's what we've done. A lot of wall is going up and every place we build a wall it's less and less. But the power of the economy is like a magnet. It's bringing more people than we've seen in a long time."

President Trump was asked if the Herman Cain nomination is safe:

"I like Herman Cain and Herman will make that determination."

"He's just somebody I like a lot. As to how he's doing in the process, that I don't know . . . Herman's a great guy and I hope he does well."

He was asked if he's considered making Stephen Miller DHS secretary:

"Stephen is an excellent guy. He's a wonderful person. People don't know him . . . He's been with me from the beginning. He's a brilliant man."

"And frankly there's only one person that's running it. You know who that is? It's me."

Joseph Morton

World-Herald Bureau

(b)(6)

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The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

Sender:	Harrison, Brian (HHS/IOS) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D145EFC9C35C4865ACA6E9D47786B204-HARRISON, B>
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Delivered Date:	2019/04/10 11:54:07



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 27, 2019

Sent via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: ACF FOIA 19-F-0247 (American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice et. al., Case No. 19-cv-774)

Dear Austin Evers:

This is an interim response pertaining to Case No. 19-cv-774 filed March 20, 2019, relating to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 19-F-0247 submitted to the Administration for Children and Families.

FOIA 19-F-0247 is seeking the following records from November 9, 2016, to the date of search:

- (1) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or about Stephen Miller, including but not limited to communications containing the name "Stephen Miller" or email communications sent or forwarded to, received from, copying, or blind copying stephen.miller@who.eop.gov or s.miller@who.eop.gov.
- (2) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or referencing the phone number "(202) 881-8641."
- (3) All call logs showing incoming or outgoing calls to or from the phone number "(202) 881- 8641."

Enclosed are 28 pages of responsive records. Two hundred seventy-nine (279) additional pages were forwarded to the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to other federal agencies for consultation on those pages that originated within those offices.

Some of the information on the disclosed pages has been withheld under the FOIA exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6). The exemption (b)(5) protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. The exemption protects agency deliberations, both internal and with agency contractors

Austin Evers
ACF FOIA 19-F-0247
(Case No. 19-cv-774)

and consultants, attorney-client privileged records and attorney work product. In this case, the withheld information includes pre-decisional discussions within the agency and between agency staff and contractors about management of the program and individual children, sensitive communications between agency staff seeking legal advice and counsel on policy and other matters and documentation of attorney thoughts and work in anticipation of litigation.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits the withholding of records which, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In this case, the withheld information consists of the identities and/or other private information of private individuals and the work cell phones of federal employees. Public disclosure of this information would constitute an invasion of privacy of those individuals whose identifying information was disclosed. In withholding the information, the individual's privacy interest was balanced against any public interest in disclosure. In each instance where information was withheld, it was determined that the individual's privacy interests outweighed any public interest in disclosure of the withheld information. Disclosure of the withheld information would invade the privacy of the subject individuals but would reveal nothing about the operations or activities of the government.

We will continue to produce records to you. If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Department of Justice who is handling this case for the Department.

Sincerely yours,

Celeste Smith
FOIA Director
Office of Communications
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

From:	Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0280B227911B40B6B30A81B8574EDE6B-STECKER, JU>
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Subject:	Fwd: New Yorker: Will Anyone in the Trump Administration Ever Be Held Accountable for the Zero-Tolerance Policy?
Date:	2018/08/22 22:57:55
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Begin Forwarded Message:

From: "(b)(6)" <[REDACTED]@hq.dhs.gov>
Subject: New Yorker: Will Anyone in the Trump Administration Ever Be Held Accountable for the Zero-Tolerance Policy?
Date: 22 August 2018 20:48
To:

Will Anyone in the Trump Administration Ever Be Held Accountable for the Zero-Tolerance Policy?

New Yorker

By Jonathan Blitzer

August 22, 2018

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/will-anyone-in-the-trump-administration-ever-be-held-accountable-for-the-zero-tolerance-policy>

Since the middle of July, a group of some twenty government officials has been gathering each week at the headquarters of Customs and Border Protection, in Washington,

D.C., to discuss what the Trump Administration should do in the aftermath of the President's failed zero-tolerance policy. The policy, which called for the criminal prosecution of anyone crossing the border illegally, and led to the separation of more than twenty-five hundred children from their parents, has coincided with a broader effort to dismantle the U.S. asylum system. Yet the government never had a plan for keeping track of the separated parents and children once they were in custody, and, even after a federal judge in San Diego, Dana Sabraw, ordered the government to reunite them, it struggled to comply. "I definitely haven't seen contrition," an Administration official, who told me about the weekly meetings, said. "But there was frustration with the incompetence of how zero tolerance got implemented. From the perspective of the political leaders here, there's recognition of how badly the policy failed." The lesson, according to the official, didn't seem to be that the Administration had gone too far in separating families but, rather, that "we need to be smarter if we want to implement something on this scale" again.

The meetings—which, the official said, were first called by a team at the White House that reports directly to Stephen Miller, the President's senior adviser on policy—include representatives from the Department of Justice, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security. The main focus, the official added, has been to "map out" how the government can detain asylum seekers as they wait for a hearing before an immigration judge, which can take several months: "The job is to model all the steps in the process. If we go after families, where do we detain them? What are the resources required at each step?" (While officials from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice declined to comment on the meetings, a spokesperson for the Department of Defense said in a statement that "the Department of Defense participates in many border planning meetings with DHS, CBP, and other federal partners," adding that it "has also been asked by DHS and HHS"—the Department of Health and Human Services—"to plan for potential sheltering of family units and unaccompanied children on military installations.")

In the next week, officials are planning to generate a first round of proposals, which is expected to include projections such as how many beds might be needed in detention

centers and children's shelters, as well as how many additional immigration judges and asylum officers should be hired to keep the system moving. The official told me that the proposals need not be restricted by existing federal laws and court agreements, such as the Flores settlement, which provides protections for the treatment of immigrant children in custody and guidelines on how long they can be detained. (The Administration is also trying to rewrite the terms of the Flores settlement.) It is all part of a "planning exercise," in which the participants are encouraged to explore any option to end the "catch and release" of asylum seekers.

Such boldness doesn't exactly come as a surprise. To date, no one in the Trump Administration has been held accountable for its family-separation policy, even after evidence has steadily mounted as to its immense human costs and administrative failures. The government's own data show that it has had no appreciable effect on migration patterns throughout the summer, but the Administration pursued the policy anyway, targeting immigrant families. Zero tolerance was designed for the government to criminally prosecute all migrants who crossed the border illegally, yet, in May, less than a third of those arrested by Border Patrol were referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution, and a significant number of those referrals involved parents who crossed the border with their children. For years, there has been frustration among federal immigration authorities who felt that parents were taking advantage of laxer enforcement at the border when they travelled to the United States with their children. There are certainly flaws in the system, but the zero-tolerance policy was intended to send a message of unprecedented harshness. According to a report by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, at Syracuse University, "The Administration has not explained its rationale for prosecuting parents with children when that left so many other adults without children who were not being referred for prosecution." Michelle Brané, of the Women's Refugee Commission, told me, "it's still baffling to me that no one has had to answer for this."

So who is to blame, and will there be any accountability? The family-separation policy raised questions about Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is responsible for the treatment of parents in detention, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which is tasked with caring for the separated children. But, a former government official told me, the prime movers behind zero tolerance were members of a "cabal of anti-immigration guys" at the White House, the D.H.S., and the Department of Justice. Stephen Miller and a Justice Department adviser named Gene Hamilton led the discussion, the former official said. "They want to have a different America, and they're succeeding. Now they're doubling down—they're making another run at lowering the number of refugees who are admitted to the United States." The failure of the zero-tolerance policy has done little, if anything, to diminish the group's standing; on the contrary, Miller has only seemed to gain allies in the government. Within the President's inner circle, according to the Times, he is considered a "walking policy encyclopedia" on immigration.

Despite the public outcry over family separation, Customs and Border Protection, which is in charge of immigration enforcement at the border, has been largely overlooked, perhaps because it's been upstaged by the notoriety of ICE, its better-known institutional sibling. But decisions about whom the government would refer for prosecution were made by officials at C.B.P., and it was Border Patrol agents at C.B.P., not ICE officers, who took children from their parents' arms. During the summer, the commissioner of the agency, Kevin McAleenan, denied that the Trump Administration was deliberately separating families, even as he directed implementation of a policy doing just that. In late June, just days after Sabraw ordered the government to reunite the separated families, Kirstjen Nielsen, the head of D.H.S., made an announcement. Ronald Vitiello, the deputy commissioner of C.B.P. and a law-enforcement veteran, was tapped to replace Thomas Homan as the director of ICE. I was in El Paso just before the news broke, when I received a text message from an ICE officer: "From the frying pan to the fire."

Some five hundred and sixty children are still separated from their parents, including twenty-four who are five years old or younger, and the parents of more than three hundred and sixty of them have already been deported. Between seven hundred and eight hundred other children were reunited with their parents in detention, where their situation is especially confounding. About half of the reunited parents have final orders of deportation—in many instances, because they'd been pressured to sign papers waiving their rights to pursue their immigration cases. As a result, families face a choice: either a parent and child can agree to be deported together, or the child can stay in this country alone while her own case is decided. Last Thursday night, Sabraw issued an order temporarily blocking the deportation of reunited parents so that they could have more time to weigh their legal options with immigration lawyers. As Dara Lind wrote, at Vox, "The question right now is when they will actually be deported, not whether they will be."

I asked the current Administration official whether the outcry over family separation had caught the government by surprise. It had, the official said. "The expectation was that the kids would go to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, that the parents would get deported, and that no one would care." Yet, when it became clear that the public did, the Administration chose not to change course.

Sender:	Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0280B227911B40B6B30A81B8574EDE6B-STECKER, JU>
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Sent Date:	2018/08/22 22:57:54
Delivered Date:	2018/08/22 22:57:55

From:	Lloyd, Scott (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5F7F5DDB3DAC432CBDD8ACAF8038CFB5-LLOYD, EDWA>
To:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"
CC:	"Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Subject:	RE: Refugee costs
Date:	2017/08/11 14:15:00
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

Thank you—that's helpful.

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Scott

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Refugee costs

(b)(5)

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Refugee costs

This works, thank you.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Scott

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Refugee costs

Scott,

Attached is the version that includes your comments. I can give you your marked-up version on Monday.

Thanks

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Refugee costs

Oh great...

Do you have the copy I gave you for my comments? Was hoping to take another look. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Thank you.
Scott

From: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: RE: Refugee costs

Scott,

(b)(5)

Thanks, Ken

From: Lloyd, Scott (ACF)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 11:02 AM
To: Tota, Kenneth (ACF)
Cc: Gregg, Laura (ACF)
Subject: Refugee costs
Importance: High

Ken,

(b)(5)

Thank you,
Scott

E. Scott Lloyd
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(202) 401-7269

(b)(6) cell)
scott.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov

Sender:	Lloyd, Scott (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5F7F5DDB3DAC432CBDD8ACAF8038CFB5-LLOYD, EDWA>
Recipient:	"Tota, Kenneth (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5c0919fe56454c2b8e7c59c38646ebec-Tota, Kenne>"; "Gregg, Laura (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2e7ff3f1d0ba483990c0f80827410056-Gregg, Laur>"
Sent Date:	2017/08/11 14:15:02
Delivered Date:	2017/08/11 14:15:00

From:	Wolfe, Kenneth (ACF) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1F392F88A57D44DF8C85DD4A2C547DDB-WOLFE, KENN>
To:	"Lloyd, Scott (OS/Partnership Center) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5f7f5ddb3dac432cbdd8acaf8038cfb5-Lloyd, Edwa>"
Subject:	FW: ACF Media Clips: Jan. 8, 2019
Date:	2019/02/04 16:21:15
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

From: ACF Media Clips (ACF) <MediaClips@acf.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 11:57 AM
To: ACF - All ACF Staff <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Media Clips: Jan. 8, 2019



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January 8, 2019

Excerpts from ACF topics in the Media

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN | BLOG

Pulse Check exclusive: Inside HHS' response to the family separation crisis

Liz Shum • Politico • District of Columbia

January 7, 2019

In the latest "Pulse Check" podcast episode, Dan Diamond, author of the POLITICO Pulse newsletter, has an exclusive interview with Chris Meekins, a Trump administration appointee who helped oversee the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to reunify thousands of separated migrant families. Meekins — who left the Trump administration last week — exclusively sat with Diamond to explain why he personally opposed the administration's "zero-tolerance" policy yet worked to reunite families who were separated. Meekins also defended the health department's broader overall care for migrant children. The conversation is the first sit-down interview with a Trump official directly involved in migrant family reunifications. What Meekins thought about family separations: "I can completely understand why people are upset about it. My personal view was I think it's an ill-fated policy that was devised by Jeff Sessions and Stephen Miller. I think that it's unconscionable to do it in this way. But at the end of the day, my job was not to make the policy. I did not have a role in the policy. HHS didn't have a role in the policy." His thoughts on the health department's role: "HHS didn't separate families. And that's a really important

distinction to make because I think a lot of folks in the media assumed that we were the ones ripping kids from their parents. And we weren't. At the end of the day, when a kid becomes unaccompanied, which is a determination that has historically been made by DHS... then they come to HHS for care. And I think the care that HHS has provided has been really positive for these kids."

[Read the full story](#) 

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN | OPINION

The damage the US government is doing to 12,000 kids

Annabelle Timsit • Quartz • New York

January 7, 2019

When the family separation crisis began at the US-Mexico border in April 2018, experts warned that keeping children apart from their parents would have consequences on their physical and mental health for years to come. Since then, allegations of child abuse in migrant shelters and the death of two children in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) custody suggests those concerns were justified. Although the Trump administration ended its separation policy in June, more than 12,000 children remain in custody, many of them housed in temporary facilities operated by Southwest Key, a charity that operates migrant shelters in Texas, Arizona, and California. But Southwest Key centers have been accused of hundreds of violations of state codes, ranging from poor medical care to child abuse, and the company failed to prove that it conducts the required background checks on all its child-care workers. Now, the Department of Justice is investigating Southwest Key for possible financial crimes uncovered in a New York Times investigation. Children's health advocates say the Trump administration should make it easier for the immigration system to reunite these children with extended family members or caregivers in the United States.

[Read the full story](#) 

CHILD CARE | ARTICLE

Report says most Missouri families live in

'child care desert'

McKenzie Nelson • KSHB • Missouri

January 8, 2019

A new report shows more than 50 percent of American's live in a child care desert, meaning parents have few or no options for licensed daytime care for kids while they're at work.

Parents with young children in Kansas and Missouri have trouble finding childcare.

[Read the full story](#) 

CHILD SUPPORT | OPINION

Criminalizing fathers who can't pay child support makes the problem worse

David Greenwald • People's Vanguard of Davis • California

January 8, 2019

There is a fair amount of research on this issue. A study from 2006 that look at nine states, found that 70 percent of those ordered to pay child support are poor. The Urban Institute found that the average child support obligation constitutes over 80 percent of the parents' income. Under President Obama, the problem of child support obligations on parents unable to pay, particularly those unable to pay because they are incarcerated, received national attention. Governing reported that "states were increasingly imposing payment obligations without regard to parents' financial situations. This trend was contributing to the cycle of incarceration that can plague people in poverty. When parents go to jail — in many cases, because of their inability to pay child support — they accumulate debt that awaits them. Once they're released, it may not be long before they're back behind bars if they continue to miss child support payments ."

[Read the full story](#) 

CHILD SUPPORT | OPED

As promised, I won't prosecute poverty

Wesley Bell • St. Louis American • Missouri

January 7, 2019

My guiding philosophy is that we cannot and will not prosecute poverty or operate the courts as debtors' prisons. A child support order is a civil order issued by a judge. Most people so ordered make good-faith efforts to pay and never see a courtroom for a criminal matter. For extreme offenders, there are two options: criminal charges or civil contempt charges. Both could potentially result in an individual being incarcerated. In a civil matter, if an individual will not make attempts to pay child support and is clearly acting in bad faith, a judge can order license revocation, income withholding and, in the most extreme cases, incarceration. In a criminal matter, if an individual will not make attempts to pay and is clearly acting in bad faith, he can be convicted and placed on probation or incarcerated. Herein lies the difference between the two approaches: in those extreme cases, an individual incarcerated for civil contempt will not have the same stigma as the individual who now has a felony or misdemeanor record. Once released, he will still owe child support. An individual's responsibility to support his family doesn't cease and shouldn't cease, but now the individual with the felony conviction has a more difficult time obtaining a good-paying job – and the cycle begins anew.

[Read the full story](#) 

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES | OPIOIDS | ARTICLE

Foster homes needed for thousands of Minnesota children

News Team • KARE • Minnesota

January 8, 2019

There is a quiet crisis growing in Minnesota -- thousands of children across the state are in desperate need of foster homes. According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the number of children needing a foster home has doubled in just the past five years. This year alone some 17,000 children will need temporary, out-of-home placements. The jump linked, in part, to the growing opioid epidemic.

[Read the full story](#) 

Whitmer bars LGBT discrimination, nixes religious exemption

David Eggert • Associated Press • Michigan

January 7, 2019

Kaplan said Snyder's short-lived directive was "very problematic" because it allowed religious employers doing business with the state to discriminate, including adoption and foster care agencies offering non-ministerial services. Groups such as Catholic Charities and Bethany Christian Services are paid by the state to place children from troubled families with new families, either through adoption or foster care. But a 2015 law says they are not required to provide services that conflict with their beliefs.

[Read the full story](#) 

Vulnerable children in NJ finally getting some help (featuring ACF)

Raymond Castro • New Jersey Record • New Jersey

January 8, 2019

This past holiday season was about more than spending time with family and eating delicious food, as it brought a heightened awareness of helping those in need. Whether it was giving to a local toy drive or volunteering at a soup kitchen, many of us took time out of our busy schedules to help those down on their luck.

New Jersey's most vulnerable families, however, need support year-round, and for decades they weren't getting it. Fortunately, Governor Murphy signed into law the first increase in cash assistance in 31 years, giving thousands of New Jersey families a much-needed boost just in time for the holidays.

Until now, the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits — \$424 a month for a parent with two kids — went without an increase since 1987. Eligibility levels also have not changed since 1987, leaving most poor kids in New Jersey ineligible for public assistance. In fact, 85 percent of all families with children in poverty last year did not

receive any basic assistance.

[Read the full story](#) 

HEAD START | ARTICLE

Will the government shutdown affect schools? (featuring ACF)

unknown • Portland Oregonian • Oregon

January 8, 2019

Some parents are concerned that Congress' inability to pass a budget will affect K-12 students. But federal funding for Title I programs, special education, school meals and other elementary and secondary education programs is unaffected because the funds have already been distributed to school districts.

Some Head Start programs could run out of money if the shutdown continues through Feb. 1. That would require Congress to allow the longest shutdown in history. The shutdown would reach its 42nd day if it extended to the first day of February. The previous record for a government shutdown occurred in December 1996 and January 1997, when the federal government closed for business for 21 days.

But no Head Start programs in Oregon will be affected even if the shutdown were to extend into February, said Marc Siegel, communication director for the Oregon Department of Education. Oregon Head Start programs are fully funded through the end of September, he said.

[Read the full story](#) 


NATIVE AMERICANS | ARTICLE

At least 24 Native Americans -- most of them women -- went missing in Montana last year. Two senators are trying to do something about it. By Andrea Diaz

Andrea Diaz • CNN • Georgia

January 8, 2019

The bill, known as Savanna's Act, was first introduced in 2017 by North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp. According to statistics cited by her office, Native American women on some reservations are killed at a rate 10 times the national average. It's named after Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a 22-year-old Native American who was abducted and killed in Fargo, North Dakota, in August 2017 while eight months pregnant, CNN affiliate KXMD reported.

[Read the full story](#) 

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT | OPINION

Busting the refugee-crime connection. Data show the relationship doesn't exist.

Scott Duke Kominers • Bloomberg News • New York

January 7, 2019

Does admitting refugees to the U.S. lead to increased crime? If you follow certain sources of news and information these days, you might think so. Indeed, concern about refugee-driven crime figures front-and-center in the narrative woven by some of the country's most influential pundits and leaders — including President Donald Trump. To really figure out what effect, if any, refugees are having on crime levels, we would need what economists call a natural experiment — a spontaneous change in refugee flows that is uncorrelated with local crime trends. Trump gave us one: On Jan. 27, 2017, he issued an executive order unilaterally suspending all refugee admissions for 120 days, and lowering caps on refugee admission thereafter. So what happened to crime when the refugees were kept out? Precisely nothing. Crime trends in counties that experienced large drops in refugee arrivals were statistically indistinguishable from crime trends elsewhere. To many, this won't come as a surprise. The claim that refugees are disproportionately responsible for crime has always been shaky. Even so, it's good to have strong evidence. And there's a bit of irony in the fact that Trump's refugee ban served as a perfect statistical experiment to prove that one of its alleged motivations — large-scale refugee-driven crime in the U.S. — was erroneous. In any event, from what we can tell from the research at this point, refugees don't appear to increase crime. So concern about crime certainly shouldn't stop us from raising

resettlement back to its pre-ban levels.

[Read the full story](#) 

TRAFFICKING | ARTICLE

UN human trafficking report: Record number of girls reported as victims

Nell Lewis • CNN • Georgia

January 7, 2019

A growing number of girls are being reported as victims of human trafficking, according to a new UN report. Girls account for 23% of all trafficking victims detected globally, according to the 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, produced by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The figure, which is based on data from 2016, is up from 21% in 2014, and 10% in 2004, the year when the UNODC began collecting data on children. Boys account for 7% of reported trafficking victims, down from 8% in 2014, and up from 3% in 2004. The report shows that women and girls account for almost three quarters of all detected victims of trafficking in 2016. Females make up 94% of the total victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, and 35% of those trafficked for forced labor.

[Read the full story](#) 

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Sent Date:	2019/02/04 16:21:13
Delivered Date:	2019/02/04 16:21:15

From:	Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0280B227911B40B6B30A81B8574EDE6B-STECKER, JU>
To:	"Harrison, Brian (HHS/IOS) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d145efc9c35c4865aca6e9d47786b204-Harrison, B>"; "Stauffer, Evelyn (OS/ASPA) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=66f84797c716417588ab34d67f8fd49e-Stauffer, E>"; "Lloyd, Scott (ACF) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5f7f5ddb3dac432cbdd8acaf8038cfb5-Lloyd, Edwa>"; "Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4caeb9900d27435daf018df146c4f075-Bowman, Mat>"
CC:	"Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA) </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8e9b6bf2d0884eafb72b5bd370b8fe2f-Weber, Mark>"
Subject:	RE: ACF Media Clips: Aug. 7, 2018
Date:	2018/08/07 13:19:02
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

I don't think I even get these clips.

(b) (5)

From: Harrison, Brian (HHS/IOS)
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:15 PM
To: Stauffer, Evelyn (OS/ASPA) <Evelyn.Stauffer@hhs.gov>; Lloyd, Scott (ACF) <Scott.Lloyd@acf.hhs.gov>; Bowman, Matthew (HHS/OGC) <Matthew.Bowman@hhs.gov>
Cc: Stecker, Judy (OS/ASPA) <Judy.Stecker@hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: ACF Media Clips: Aug. 7, 2018

Multiple stories in here on the topic:

From: ACF Media Clips (ACF)
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 1:12 PM
To: ACF - All ACF Staff <All-ACFStaff@acf.hhs.gov>
Subject: ACF Media Clips: Aug. 7, 2018

ACF Media Clips: Aug. 7, 2018

Unaccompanied Alien Children

Duckworth fears migrant kids at shelter are hungry and scared *(featuring ACF)*

U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth raised concerns about an organization that cares for migrant children separated from their parents Monday, saying she worried they were hungry and stressed. At a news conference in Des Plaines, Duckworth, a Hoffman Estates Democrat, said the agency on Monday refused to let her see any children at a Chicago shelter, Casa Guadalupe, who had been separated from their parents at the border, but she spoke with some unaccompanied minors. Duckworth said she is asking Heartland to provide a care plan for the migrant children and has asked U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to investigate.

Chicago Daily Herald, IL

Aug. 6, 2018

Expert: Sex abuse allegations impact other migrant kids in shelters *(featuring ACF)*

One expert says for kids still living in shelters, knowing about the alleged crimes can make them more vulnerable to abuse. One Southwest Key employee is accused of sexually abusing eight teenage boys in 2016 and 2017 at a shelter in Mesa. The other is accused of molesting a 14-year-old girl at a Southwest Key facility in Phoenix in June. Knowing about alleged abuse makes kids still living in shelters more afraid, and less likely to report future incidents, said Dr. Nayeli Chavez-Dueñas, associate professor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. “And also fear that if they report it, would that affect their petition for asylum,” she said.

KJZZ/Fronteras, AZ

Aug. 6, 2018

Foster families for unaccompanied minors *(featuring ACF)*

Despite the possibility of detainment, thousands of unaccompanied minors continue fleeing to the United States’ southern border to escape violence. “The situation’s not going to get better until we deal with the root cause,” Bethany Christian Services’ Chris Palusky says. Gangs have often threatened children and their families or even killed relatives to force children to join them. Girls have also been taken and trafficked by gang members. Children, as a result, have been fleeing to the United States unaccompanied. Bethany has been working with unaccompanied children for decades. Further, they’ve started working with kids who were taken from their parents at the border under the “zero tolerance” policy. Palusky explains that children – unaccompanied and separated, are referred by the government. From there, Bethany’s case managers help to locate children’s parents and family members, whether they are in detention centers or in their home nation.

Mission Network News, IL

Aug. 7, 2018

In San Diego, a mother remains separated from her child

In a detention center in Southern California, a mother remains separated from her 3-year-old. Officials say it's because of the woman's criminal history but have not provided specifics or records. The U.S. government has until Thursday to tell a federal judge in San Diego why more than 570 immigrant children are still separated from their parents. Government lawyers say these parents have committed crimes, and that puts their

children at risk. But the ACLU, which sued to end the separations, sees it differently. It says in at least 30 cases, the parents may have committed what the ACLU calls minor crimes, the sort not serious enough to keep them from their children.

National Public Radio, DC

Aug. 6, 2018

The government reunited some immigrant families—then took the children away a second time (featuring ACF)

As lawyers with the government and those representing the immigrants sort out what happened to the families of roughly 500 children who remain separated, nightmarish tales are beginning to emerge of parents being reunited with their kids only to have them taken away a second time; or of parents being told that they are about to be reunited with their children, only to wait hours before being returned to holding facilities without seeing their kids—and without any explanation. The short-lived July 25 reunion marked the second time that the U.S. government separated the families.

Texas Monthly, TX

Aug. 6, 2018

Immigration "loophole" that Trump bemoaned returns after zero tolerance rollback

As the United States' immigration policies continue to shift, the procedures that dictated the fates of asylum-seeking families as recently as a few weeks ago already seem like ancient history. A head-spinning sequence of events — chaotic procedural changes, followed by furious public outcry and abrupt policy reversals — appears to have put the Trump administration back where it started: running an immigration enforcement system in which migrant families who cross the border illegally are allowed to stay in the country while the government processes their asylum claims. In June, the number of apprehensions at the border dropped significantly, a decrease that the Trump administration hailed as evidence that the zero-tolerance policy has deterred migrants from trying to enter the country illegally. But thousands continue to make the long trek north, despite the shifting currents of American immigration policy.

Texas Tribune, TX

Aug. 7, 2018

The government isn't doing anything to reunite this family it broke apart

For children with deported parents, each step of the reunification process is a new hurdle with new challenges. "Obviously the first step is finding them and that's still a major task," said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the ACLU's Immigrant Rights Project, of the parents, who may be hiding in their home countries in fear of the dangerous conditions they fled in the first place. Even when there is consensus in the family—as well as an expedited court date to request voluntary departure for the child—the process of returning can take months, said Elizabeth Frankel, associate director of the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights. "Once there's an order from a judge the government works to repatriate the child and then DHS and HHS have to work with the consulates. It's a slow process because so many different government entities are involved and it involves the consulates of different countries."

Vice News, NY
Aug. 6, 2018

Practices regarding detained children at Texas center constitute child abuse

(featuring ACF)

Imagine separating children from their parents and remanding them to a facility in which staff routinely force powerful, psycho-active drugs into their bodies. Something from Nazi Germany or a dystopian science-fiction novel? No, this took place in Shiloh Treatment Center in Manvel, Texas.

Opinion

Chattanooga Times Free Press, TN

Aug. 6, 2018

The anguish of family separation can have far-reaching effects *(featuring ACF)*

In the families recently separated we see mostly the immediate need of the small children. But those children grow up and many of them become angry at what has been taken from them. Policies that separate families in this way are aimed at punishing those who have somehow run afoul of our laws. What is not considered is the long-term effect of that punishment on families and on our society as a whole.

Opinion

Louisville Courier-Journal, KY

Aug. 6, 2018

No, it's not the ACLU's job to reunite the families you sundered, Mr. President

The ACLU says it is ready to help reunite families, but it's preposterous that the government would try to outsource the job and shed its own responsibility. Federal officials, who had no plan for reuniting families, also have no plan for locating parents, most of them in Guatemala and Honduras, who have already been removed. Mr. Sabraw ordered the administration to appoint an individual to oversee what will be the painstaking process of tracking down deported parents. In the meantime, administration lawyers might take a refresher course on the meaning of accountability and personal responsibility. Of course, ultimate responsibility lies with administration leaders who cared so little for the human beings who are now paying such a high price.

Editorial

Washington Post, DC

Aug. 6, 2018

Child Care

Boosts in income eligibility mean more families to access child care subsidies

Maryland has doubled how much working families can earn and still qualify for child care vouchers, a move advocates say will open up high-quality care for thousands more families. Beginning this month, families of four with incomes of up to \$71,525 can apply for the state's Child Care Subsidy Program. The previous income limit was \$35,702 for a family of four.

Baltimore Sun, MD

Aug. 7, 2018

Children , Youth & Families

New federal law tightens child welfare rules (featuring ACF)

A new federal law may shake up how New Mexico and other states work to save children from abuse and neglect. Tucked into a budget package approved by Congress this year, the Family First Prevention Services Act is expected to reshape parts of New Mexico's child welfare system, forcing the state to move children more quickly out of group homes or shelters.

Albuquerque Journal, NM

Aug. 7, 2018

State auditors question \$26 million in child welfare spending

State auditors are calling into question more than \$26 million worth of Nebraska child welfare spending from last year. A 98-page audit report, released Friday, listed the findings: payments made in error, overpayments, unauthorized payments, unreasonable costs and numerous other payments. The audit found problems with both the Department of Health and Human Services and PromiseShip, formerly the Nebraska Families Collaborative. PromiseShip is an Omaha-based nonprofit that contracts with the state to manage child welfare cases in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Omaha World-Herald, NE

Aug. 7, 2018

Positive parenting: Child trauma project turns life around for foster kids (featuring ACF)

On any given day in the United States, as many as 438,000 kids and teens are in the foster care system. According to published reports, 70 percent have a documented history of abuse or neglect and eighty percent have witnessed violence. New research suggests an intensive form of therapy may go a long way toward helping kids. Mary-Kate Myers is 22 and has finished three years of college. Ten years ago, life looked completely different. "Me and my mom were homeless when I was ten or eleven. We were in between all the families' houses, but we didn't have any more houses to go to," said Myers. That started Myers' cycle in the Massachusetts child welfare system. She was in and out of foster homes half a dozen times until, at 15, she was placed with her foster mom, Diane Lanni.

WFMZ, PA

Aug. 6, 2018

Foster children in Nevada face judicial system alone, underrepresented

Brittan was assigned an attorney with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. This attorney got him through a year of tough court appearances and decisions - even while Brittan was himself struggling with addiction. There are roughly 3,400 children in foster care in Clark County. Of those, about 3,000 are represented by a Children's Attorney Project lawyer with the Legal Aid Center.

Nevada Public Radio, NV

Aug. 6, 2018

When adopted children want to meet their birth parents

Adoption experts say first-time meetings between adult adoptees and their birth parents are becoming more common among the more than five million American adults who were adopted as children. The popularity of online genetic services like Ancestry.com and 23andMe is a significant factor, along with social media and the trend toward open adoptions. The interpersonal dynamics of these reunions vary with the nature of the adoption. I grew up with my birth mother and adoptive stepfather. Adoptees like me have a very different perspective than someone who was adopted internationally, for example, or domestically through a closed adoption or foster care.

Opinion

New York Times, NY

Aug. 7, 2018

Why It's so easy to troll someone with anonymous child abuse report

One study estimates that one-third of American children — and a majority of African-American children — will be forced to endure at least one child abuse investigation. And more than 80 percent of the time, those investigations are for nothing; the reports are false. They don't even meet the minimal standards for "substantiation" under state laws. So in addition to traumatizing millions of children, caseworkers spend four-fifths of their time spinning their wheels. And that's for all reports. Anonymous reports are vastly less reliable. All that wasted time is being stolen from finding children in real danger. There will always be screening in child welfare. The choice is between rational screening — by doing things like eliminating anonymous reporting — or irrational screening, in which workers are in such a rush to make decisions, because they're so overloaded, that they wrongly label some children abused and wrongly ignore abuse in others.

Opinion

Youth Today, GA

Aug. 6, 2018

Child Support

White House backs revamp of child support enforcement to demand more from parents (featuring ACF)

The call for tightening child support enforcement is new for the White House but echoes the direction of GOP policy at the state level. In Wisconsin, for instance, Gov. Scott Walker backed stricter child support requirements as part of a broader welfare reform package, some of which became law. While conservatives generally favor requiring absent parents to contribute more to their children's upbringing rather than having the government provide greater resources, there are practical limits to the idea. One is that the process of identifying deadbeat fathers and collecting money from them could force the mothers to confront men who've treated them abusively. Another is that piling debts on a noncustodial parent who is already behind could lead him to give up trying to pay support altogether, or to face incarceration for failing to pay. The White House recommendations acknowledged those realities by endorsing "appropriate" modifications

to child support obligations when parents go to prison. The administration also, however, calls for requiring the criminal justice system to notify other agencies when the parent leaves prison in order to resume requiring payment of the full obligation.

Washington Examiner, DC

Aug. 7, 2018

High income families just got another hurdle to clear in child support cases

Parents who earn more than \$30,000 a month in net income will be required to pay enough monetary support so that the child will be able to maintain whatever lifestyle the child has grown accustomed to — meaning the sky could literally be the limit. Prior to the court decision handed down last month, child support for parents at all income levels was based on guidelines that predicted the economic needs of a child. But the state Supreme Court has decided that for wealthy households, need becomes less easily calculated by a set formula. Going forward, child support payments will instead be based on how much it will cost to maintain the lifestyle a child is accustomed to without burdening the custodial parent.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, PA

Aug. 6, 2018

Morgan County chosen for new child support services program

The Morgan County Department of Human Services is undergoing new changes in their Child Support Services department (CSS). Morgan County was recently selected to be one of 11 counties in the state of Colorado to participate in a new method of approaching child support called the CSS 2 Gen Transformation pilot. The 2Gen pilot program is set up so that rather than focusing primarily on the collection of child support money, the CSS will focus on providing families with the proper resources to prosper. "We have connections with businesses throughout the area," said Tammie Wick, the manager of Morgan County's Child Support Services department. "So we're able to help people find jobs that will pay for their child support expenses." The new program is meant to help all sides of the family, whether they have majority custody of the children involved or not, with the ultimate goal of making sure families are able to grow.

Fort Morgan Times, CO

Aug. 6, 2018

Community Services

Deadline today for public comment on 2020 census controversies (featuring ACF)

Panelists repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Census Bureau getting the count right because mistakes have monetary and social repercussions lasting through the decade and beyond. The estimated annual \$600 to \$675 billion draw-down of federal funds, based on and allocated to states, counties, and cities using census data, would expand to over six trillion dollars until next decennial count in 2030. More difficult to quantify and qualify over that span is the impact of the loss of a family's home, food insecurity, or lack of access to medical care. Yes, Green said, African Americans, as do many Americans across ethnic lines, benefit from federally programs based on Census data, among them the Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid); Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(SNAP); Health Center Programs (Community, Migrant, Homeless, Public Housing); and Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP).

Philadelphia Tribune, PA

Aug. 7, 2018

Family Assistance

Should SNAP recipients have to work to qualify for welfare?

A new battle in Congress could affect how nearly 40 million Americans buy groceries. National correspondent Michelle Macaluso explains in the video above about the push for new work requirements in order to get food stamps.

Video

KRNV, NV

Aug. 6, 2018

Head Start

City of Rockford receives Head Start grant (featuring ACF)

The City of Rockford on Monday announced that it received an annual \$6.5 million grant to provide Head Start and Early Head Start services in Winnebago County for the next five years. Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes school readiness for children from birth to age five and pregnant women who meet income guidelines. The funds will help an enhanced partnership with Rockford School District reach more children ages 3- 5 in public schools.

Rock River Times, IL

Aug. 6, 2018

Native Americans

Appeals court throws out challenge to Indian Child Welfare Act, calling it 'moot' (featuring ACF)

A court has thrown out a bid to void a federal law that challengers claim is racist because it places the desires and rights of Native American tribes over the constitutionally protected best interests of children. In a unanimous ruling Monday, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals did not address the contention of the Goldwater Institute, representing Arizona couples adopting Native children, that the law is unfair and illegal. Instead, the three-judge panel pointed out that all the adoptions had gone through since the lawsuit was first filed in 2015. As such, they concluded, none of the plaintiffs had been harmed and there was nothing left on which the court could rule.

Arizona Daily Star, AR

Aug. 7, 2018

Refugee Resettlement

Now the Trump administration wants to limit citizenship for legal immigrants

The Trump administration is expected to issue a proposal in coming weeks that would make it harder for legal immigrants to become citizens or get green cards if they have ever used a range of popular public welfare programs, including Obamacare, four sources with knowledge of the plan told NBC News. The move, which would not need congressional approval, is part of White House senior adviser Stephen Miller's plan to limit the number of migrants who obtain legal status in the U.S. each year. Details of the rulemaking proposal are still being finalized, but based on a recent draft seen last week and described to NBC News, immigrants living legally in the U.S. who have ever used or whose household members have ever used Obamacare, children's health insurance, food stamps and other benefits could be hindered from obtaining legal status in the U.S.

NBC News, NY

Aug. 6, 2018

Human Trafficking

Dignity Health launches program to assist human trafficking victims

A California-based not-for-profit company launched a program in an effort to take a stand and face the misconceptions and stigmas that come along with human trafficking. Dignity Health recently launched its Human Trafficking Response Program for medical professionals. The goal of this program is to ensure trafficked victims are identified in the health care setting and appropriately assisted with victim-centered, trauma-informed care and services. "Health care has recognized that we are seeing victims in our hospitals, clinics, inside physician's practices," Holly Gibbs, the program director, told *KTAR News 92.3 FM* on Monday. Dignity Health partnered with the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network and TRUST, or Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking, in hopes of tackling the issue with collaboration.

KTAR, AZ

Aug. 7, 2018

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

October 21, 2019

Sent via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Re: ACF FOIA 19-F-0247 (American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Justice et. al., Case No. 19-cv-774)

Dear Austin Evers:

This is an interim response pertaining to Case No. 19-cv-774 filed March 20, 2019, relating to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 19-F-0247 submitted to the Administration for Children and Families.

FOIA 19-F-0247 is seeking the following records from November 9, 2016, to the date of search:

- (1) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or about Stephen Miller, including but not limited to communications containing the name "Stephen Miller" or email communications sent or forwarded to, received from, copying, or blind copying stephen.miller@who.eop.gov or s.miller@who.eop.gov.
- (2) All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, voicemail transcripts, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Signal, or Twitter Direct Messages), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with or referencing the phone number "(202) 881-8641."
- (3) All call logs showing incoming or outgoing calls to or from the phone number "(202) 881- 8641."

Enclosed are four pages of responsive records. These records are being released in full, without redactions. Three hundred twenty-four additional pages will be forwarded to the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to other federal agencies for consultation on those pages that originated within those offices.

Austin Evers
ACF FOIA 19-F-0247
(Case No. 19-cv-774)

We will continue to produce records to you. If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Department of Justice who is handling this case for the Department.

Sincerely yours,

**Carla C.
Smith -S**

Digitally signed by Carla C. Smith -S
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
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Celeste Smith
FOIA Director
Office of Communications
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

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Subject:	McAleenan heckled over family separations at the border
Date:	2018/07/27 10:30:20
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

By Ted Hesson

07/27/2018 10:28 AM EDT

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan was shouted down today by several protesters who criticized him for separating families at the border.

A man interrupted an event with McAleenan at the D.C.-based Bipartisan Policy Center.

"How do you sleep at night?" the man [shouted](#). "You're a child abuser. You're orphaning children, you're kidnapping children."

The protester was removed, but two other audience members heckled McAleenan shortly thereafter.

Opponents of President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" border policy — which led to thousands of migrant family separations from April to June — have confronted administration officials publicly in recent months.






A D.C. chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America [chanted "shame"](#) at Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen in June while she dined at a Mexican restaurant. Several days later, protesters [demonstrated](#) outside her home in Alexandria, Va.

White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller also [has been targeted](#) by protesters.

To view online:

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/employment-immigration/whiteboard/2018/07/mcaleenan-heckled-over-family-separations-at-the-border-1675800>

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